







Yearly Meeting Record Book  
for Women Friends

Beginning 1777 ————— to 1805

Note, The former Records are in one end of the  
Quarterly Meeting of Rhode Islands Book

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1/2 cup, 1/2 cup, 1/2 cup, 1/2 cup

for Home

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At a Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held  
Smithfield for New-England from the 13<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup>  
Month to the 16<sup>th</sup> of the same 1777. —

The Representatives being called, none present ~~and~~ for Rhode-  
Island — Dartmouth None — For Greenwich Lu-  
cannah Aldrich & Mary Spencer — For Smithfield  
Elizabeth Farnum and Mary Olney — For Salem Quarter  
Mehitable Jenkins, Peace Purington, Bethia Dean, Hannah  
Hacker & Hannah Nerval — For Sandwich Quarter Anna  
Wing, Elizabeth Wing —

By Accounts Received with answers to the Queries from  
each Quarter, We are informed that altho' there appears a neg-  
lect in the attendance of all our religious Meetings, with many  
other branches of our Christian testimony, which is sorrowfully to  
be lamented, yet we believe, in each Meeting there are some who  
are honestly concerned that the waste places may be rebuilt and  
truth again restored to its ancient beauty. —

Received and read an acceptable Epistle from the Yearly  
Meeting of Women Friends held at Philadelphia the 9<sup>th</sup> of 1776

Our friends Sarah Barney & Peace Purington are  
to prepare an Epistle to them, and bring to the Adjournment.

Our friends Mary Rodman, Dorcas Earl & Anna Wing  
are appointed to prepare Epistles to the several Quarterly Meetings,  
making such remarks as appear necessary & bring to the adjournment.

This Meeting adjourns to the 12<sup>th</sup> hour to Morrow.

The



The 14<sup>th</sup> Met by Adjournment

The Representatives called all present

Our friends presented the Epistle for the Yearly Meeting of Women at Philadelphia, which was signed in behalf of the Meeting by a Number of friends

Also those who were appointed to prepare Epistles to the Several Quarterly Meetings, with a Transcript of the Epistle from the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends at Philadelphia which were approved and signed by the clerk

Received Epistles, one printed and one written one from the Yearly Meeting held at London in 1776 & a Copy of one from said Meeting to Philadelphia yearly Meeting, with two from Philadelphia yearly Meeting in 1776, with some extracts from the minutes thereof, were all read to good Satisfaction

This Meeting concludes and adjourns to next Year

Mary Olney Clerk to the Meeting  
This Year



At a yearly Meeting of Women Friends held at  
Smithfield for New England the 12<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1778

The representatives being called, there appears  
present for Rhode Island Quarter, Susanna Smith, Sarah  
Howland, Sarah Anthony, Mary Rodman, Elizabeth  
Farnum, Patience Bayton, Susanna Collins and  
Peace Devaul — For Salem Quarter Bethia South-  
wick, Mchitable Jenkins, Hope Scammon, Anne Beady  
For Sandwich Hannah Swift

We Received Accounts from each Quarter, with Answers to  
the Queries, and we have to observe with sorrow the many  
deficiencies therein mentioned, but still we believe there are  
a remnant in each meeting rightly engaged for the cause  
of truth and its prevalency upon the Earth

This Meeting appoints our friends Peace Purington,  
Anne Hacker, Hope Scammons, Elizabeth Morrell, Martha  
Gos & Mchitable Jenkins to prepare Epistles to the several  
Quarterly Meetings and bring to the adjournment of this  
Meeting

A Certificate for our esteemed friend David Sands,  
from the Monthly Meeting held at the nine partners in  
the province of new York the 22<sup>nd</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1778 was  
read in this Meeting — Also one for our esteemed Friend  
Aaron Lancaster from the Monthly Meeting held at the  
Oblong the 18<sup>th</sup> of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mo. 1778 with whose Ministry  
and Visit to us they have Unity

A general printed Epistle from the yearly meeting held in  
London from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1777\* together  
with a Testimony given forth by that Meeting respecting

\* Containing much excellent advice, as also a Written one from that Meeting  
to this — One from the yearly Meeting at Philadelphia from the 29<sup>th</sup> of the  
9<sup>th</sup> Mo. to the 4<sup>th</sup> of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1777

the



the friends who are under imprisonment, and sent from their homes & Families — And also an Epistle from the Meeting for sufferings held in Philadelphia the 19<sup>th</sup> of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mo. 1778 to our Meeting for sufferings, were all read in this Meeting to our Edification & refreshment

This Meeting adjourns to the eleventh hour to morrow.

The 13<sup>th</sup> day Met according to adjournment  
A Testimony from the Monthly Meeting of Smithfield the 26<sup>th</sup> of the 12<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1776, concerning our esteemed friend Daniel Southwick Deceased, was read in this Meeting

The Meeting adjourns to second day at the 12<sup>th</sup> hour.

Second day the 15<sup>th</sup>. Met according to adjournment

The Committee appointed to prepare Epistles to the Several Quarterly Meetings, presented them; which were read, approved & signed by Mary Olney Clerk for this Time

There was also one drawn & brought to this Meeting, for the yearly meeting of women friends to be held at Philadelphia in the 9<sup>th</sup> Mo. next, which were signed by a number of friends in behalf of the Meeting

(There having been laid before this Meeting) a report of a Committee appointed by the mens meeting upon the Subject of Marriage; the same hath been read, considered and approved of by this Meeting & directed to be Recorded as follows viz<sup>t</sup> —

It is the judgment of the Yearly Meeting that the business of laying intentions and receiving of Answers in case of Marriage in the Monthly Meetings, is of the same nature



nature of the Meetings other business, and that they ought to be selected in the same manner — with this liberty, that if any particular circumstance attend that performance at any time, orderly persons may be admitted to attend that part of the business, provided they have the Consent of the Meeting at that Time —

We have likewise considered the proposal on the 7<sup>th</sup> Query respecting what time shall be supposed to be too early for proposals of Marriage; It is our judgment that it is advisable for friends not to make or admit of proposals of Marriage in less than twelve months after the Decease of former Husband or Wife —

A report to the mens meeting respecting the support of the poor from Rhode Island was also read in this Meeting, approved of & is as follows — Agreeable to appointment we have consider'd of the matter laid before the Yearly Meeting by the Meeting for Sufferings, respecting such poor persons as are said and believed to be Members of our Society, as have or may remove from Rhode Island — It is our sense & judgment, that such friends, whether of Rhode Island or any other Monthly Meeting in like circumstances, be under the care of such monthly meetings where they first settle, who are desired to have the first oversight of them, and conduct with them as with their own poor, and that such Monthly Meetings apply to the Meeting for Sufferings to reimburse the expences on such, out of the yearly Meetings Stock — This method to be adopted until the next yearly Meeting —

This Meeting adjourns to the 2<sup>nd</sup> hour to morrow  
16<sup>th</sup> Met according to adjournment —

This Meeting having received a few lines from Oblong Monthly Meeting in behalf of Hannah Wing signifying their



6.  
Their concurrence in her desire in attending this Meeting,  
and she attending the several sittings thereof, a few lines was  
given her directed to the said Meeting and signed by the  
Clerk for this Time —

Certificates for our esteemed Friends, David Sands  
and Aaron Lancaster signifying our unity in their gospel  
labours was signed by a number of Friends in behalf of this  
Meeting —

The Clerk of this Meeting, being unable to  
attend on account of the communication with Rhode Island  
being obstructed; Mary Olney is appointed Clerk for the  
ensuing Year —

This Meeting concludes and adjourns to next  
Year —

At a Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held  
at Smithfield for New England the eleventh of the 6<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup>  
1779 —

The representatives appointed to attend this  
Meeting are for Rhode Island Quarter —

Deborah Haden, Mary Smith, Susanna Aldrich,  
Anna Greene, Mary Gardner, Elizabeth Southwick,  
Margaret Smith, Patience Brayton, Susanna Collins,  
Esther Gifford, Rachel Macomber — For Salem Quar-  
ter Peace Purington, Bethiah Dean, Meriam Fry,  
Sarah Navall & Hope Scammon — For Sandwich Quarter  
Edith Wing & Theby Wing —



We received Accounts with Answers to the Queries from each Quarter, wherein we find that Meetings are generally kept up, love and unity measurably <sup>with a Number</sup> subsists, and a concern continues to rest upon the minds of a remnant to keep up and maintain our Discipline in the simplicity of truth, altho' there appears many departures from our Christian Testimony proceeding from a like warmth and indifferency too unhappily prevalent amongst us in this time of trial when the judgments of the almighty are in the Earth—

Peace Purington, Phebe Wing, Anna Hacker, Anna Grane, Hannah Bowman are appointed to prepare Epistles for the several quarterly Meetings, making such remarks as appear necessary and bring to the adjournment—

Whitcomb Jenkins, Elizabeth Morrel, Hope Scammond, Isaac Earl & Elizabeth Southwick, are appointed to write an Epistle to the yearly meeting of Women & Friends at Philadelphia and bring to the adjournment—

(Read in this Meeting an Epistle from the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held at Philadelphia from the 28<sup>th</sup> of the 9<sup>th</sup> Mo to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the 10<sup>th</sup> 1778—

One from the yearly meeting of men friends held at Philadelphia from 26<sup>th</sup> of the 9<sup>th</sup> Mo to the 5<sup>th</sup> of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mo 1778— Also one from the yearly meeting of men held at Westbury on Long Island in the province of New York by adjournments from the 23<sup>th</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> Mo to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> Mo 1779— Likewise a written and printed one from the yearly meeting held at London by adjournments from the 8<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> Mo 1778, to the 13<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive, containing much seasonable & salutary advice, and were to our comfort & encouragement—

An



8  
An Extract of a Yearly meeting minute held at  
Westbury on Long Island signifying their unity  
with Solomon Underhill's visit to this Meeting, he  
being a Minister in Unity the 24<sup>th</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup>.  
1779, was read in this Meeting

The Meeting adjourns to the 11<sup>th</sup> hour to Morrow.

Seventh day the 12<sup>th</sup> Met according to Adjournment.

The representatives all present

A concern rests on this Meeting, that truth & righteousness  
may be promoted amongst us; and to this end recommend to  
the quarterly meetings to call on their several monthly meet-  
ings, to wait in the depth of humility to be favoured with  
best wisdom to appoint suitable friends to visit the families  
of friends; we being persuaded where this work is performed  
under the influence of truth, it will have a tendency to rectify  
the waste places in our Zion, and contribute to the comfort of  
such as faithfully perform that weighty work; And it is  
our desire that an account of their progress should be trans-  
mitted to our next yearly Meeting

Was read in this meeting a Copy of an Epistle  
of the yearly meeting of Women friends held at Philadel-  
phia by adjournments from the 28<sup>th</sup> of the 9<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup>. to the  
3<sup>rd</sup> of the 10<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup>. 1777, which came to hand too late  
for the last yearly Meeting to which it was directed.

Extracts were read from the minutes of the yearly  
meeting of men held in Philadelphia by adjournments  
from the 28<sup>th</sup> of the 9<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup>. to the 5<sup>th</sup> of the 10<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup>. 1778  
containing many very weighty matters, together with some  
ob-



9  
observations relating to the establishing of schools  
therein referred to

This Meeting adjourns to the 11<sup>th</sup> hour on 2<sup>nd</sup> day

Second day the 14<sup>th</sup> Meet according to Adjournment.

The representatives being called, were all present.

The Committee presented the Epistle for the several  
Quarterly Meetings which were read, approved & signed  
by the Clerk; with the Transcripts of the Philadelphia Epistle  
for the several Quarters. Also the Epistle to be sent to  
Philadelphia, which being approved was signed in behalf  
of the Meeting by a number of Friends

The Clerk is desired to send a Copy of the last yearly meeting  
Epistle to Philadelphia, as by the reception of theirs we find  
it had not reached them. As also to transcribe & send  
the Epistle from this Meeting, and report to the meeting next  
year

Was read in this Meeting a report of a Committee  
of men friends respecting some proposals of regulating Schools  
for the Education of the Youth, which we concur with

This Meeting concludes and adjourns to next year

Mary Brown (Ck)

At a Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held at Rhode Island  
the 9<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup>. 1780

The representatives appointed to attend from Rhode Is-  
land Quarter present; Amy Hurston, Mary Mitchell,  
Hannah Fowler, Nehitable Collins, Sarah Houshourn



Patience Brayton, Sarah Purington, Deborah Slade, Patience Tripp, Sarah Soule — For Salem Bethia Dean and Hannah Hanson — For Sandwich Mary Rogers & Elizabeth Wing —

The Rec. Accounts from each quarterly meeting with answers to the Queries; and that love & unity measurably subsists with a remnant — Meetings are kept up, but too great a slackness in attending Meetings of Business & for worship on week days, with Divers other deficiencies, which an attention to the truth and to keep up our discipline in the spirit of it can only remove —

By Rhode Island & Salem Accounts we find some progress hath been made respecting visiting friends families and that a concern continues for a further promotion of that work agreeable to the advice of the last yearly Meeting —

Our friends appointed to prepare Epistles for the several quarterly Meetings are Mary Mitchel, Anna Hacker, Hannah Harrison & Mary Rogers, the same to be brought to this Meeting next second day —

Read in this meeting a Seasonable & acceptable Epistle from the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held at Philadelphia from the 27<sup>th</sup> of the 9<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup> to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the 10<sup>th</sup> 1779, acknowledging the reception of our Epistle of the 6<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup> 1779 & one in the 6<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup> 1778 —

Our Sisters Amey Thurston, Elizabeth Morrell & Lois Mace y<sup>e</sup> are appointed to Write an Epistle to the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends at Philadelphia & bring to this Meeting on second day next —



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Read in this Meeting a certificate for our Friend  
John Lloyd from the Monthly Meeting of Germers in the  
County of Philadelphia in Pennsylvania the 25<sup>th</sup> of the  
4<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup>. 1780, manifesting their unity with his Ministry  
and kind to this Meeting.

(This Meeting adjourns till to morrow at the 10<sup>th</sup>  
hour

10<sup>th</sup> day Met by Adjournment

The representatives called all present except two.

— We received an Epistle from the yearly Meeting  
of friends held in Philadelphia for Pennsylvania &  
new Jersey — One from the yearly Meeting of  
friends held in London in the 5<sup>th</sup>. 11<sup>th</sup>. 1779. One printed  
Epistle from the same Meeting to the Quarterly & Monthly  
Meetings of friends in great Britain Ireland & elsewhere

Also one to friends at their yearly meeting to be held  
at Philadelphia, containing much true sympathy and  
weighty advice, which was read & affectionately received.

Lydia Macey is appointed to Write two copies of  
the Epistle from the yearly Meeting of Women Friends  
at Philadelphia for our Quarterly Meetings

(This Meeting is adjourned to the 10<sup>th</sup> hour on second  
day — Second day the 12<sup>th</sup> met according to adjournment)

The representatives again called, all present

The Epistles for the several quarterly meetings  
were brought to this Meeting, Read, approv'd & signed by  
the clerk directed to each Quarter

Also



Also one brought to this Meeting, read, approved and signed by a number of Friends, in behalf of the Meetg for the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends at Philadelphia

Two Copies of the Philadelphia Epistle, were brought agreeable to appointment, for the Quarterly Meetings

Was read in this Meeting a Testimony from the Monthly Meeting of South Kingston concerning our esteemed Friend John Collins Deceased

Likewise a Testimony from the Monthly Meeting of South Kingston concerning our ancient & esteemed Friend Peter Davis Deceased, who being dead yet speaketh and adopts this language follow us as we have followed Christ

This Meeting requests Mary Brown to get a Book and Record the Minutes of the four last Yearly Meetings

This Meeting concludes & adjourns to next year the second 6<sup>th</sup> day of the 6<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup>.  
1781

Mary Brown Clerk to the Meeting  
this year



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At a Yearly Meeting of Women Friends  
held at Newport for New England the 8<sup>th</sup> of the  
6<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1781

The Representatives present are

For Rhode Island Quarter Elizabeth Hadwen, Judith Russell,  
Susanna Aldrich, Philadelphia Howland, Elizabeth Sprague,  
Abigail Harriss, Anne Wing, Hannah Bowler, Patience  
Brayton, Hannah Chase, Deborah Slade, Susanna Collins,  
Sarah Mosier For Salem quarter, Mary Dame  
Elizabeth Merrell, Elizabeth Collins, Hannah Dow, Mchitable  
Jenkins, Thankful Pierington For Sandwich  
Quarter Mary Rogers & Lydia Gould

Received Accounts from each Quarter, with Answers  
to the Queries, wherein we find Meetings are all continued,  
Salem & Sandwich have made some small progress respecting  
visiting Families

By the Answers we find a great shortness  
in a departure from truth's testimony which we have to  
observe with sorrow yet we believe there are a number  
in each quarter livingly engaged for the cause and are  
endeavouring to keep up gospel Order & seeking to promote  
the prosperity of Zion

Was read in this Meeting an acceptable Epistle  
from the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held at  
Philadelphia in the 9<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1780

Me



Mehitable Jenkins, Amey Thurston & Hannah Rowell are appointed to prepare a draught of an Epistle to the yearly Meeting of Women friends at Philadelphia and bring to this Meeting on Wed day next

Anne Hacker, Elizabeth Morrell, Hannah Linn, Lydia Gould & Elizabeth Hadwen, are appointed to draw an Epistle to the several quarterly Meetings and bring to the Adjournment next second day

Was read in this Meeting a certificate on behalf of our esteemed friend Elizabeth Knight from the Monthly Meeting held at Nine Partners the 15<sup>th</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1781

One in behalf of our esteemed friend James Thornton from the Monthly Meeting held at Abington in Pennsylvania the 19<sup>th</sup> of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mo. 1781

One in behalf of our esteemed friend Samuel Smith from the Monthly Meeting held at Philadelphia the 17<sup>th</sup> of the 4<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1781

One in behalf of our esteemed friend Benedict & Jenter from the Monthly Meeting held at Harrison's purchase in West Chester County the 12<sup>th</sup> of the 12<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1780 certifying their Unity with their Ministry an visit to Friends in these parts were read to satisfaction

Was read in this Meeting a copy of a Minute extracted from the Monthly Meeting held at Abington by adjournment the 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1781, in behalf of our esteemed friend Thomas Comstock, signifying their Unity with his Ministry & attending this Meeting



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One on behalf of our esteemed friend Warner Mifflin  
from the Monthly Meeting held at Duck Creek in Kent  
County on Delaware by adjournment the 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> of the  
4<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1781

One in behalf of our esteemed friend George  
Churchman from the Monthly Meeting held at Notting-  
ham in Cecil County Maryland the 31<sup>st</sup> of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mo.  
1781

Also a Copy of a minute in behalf of our es-  
teemed friend David Cooper from the Monthly meeting  
at Hadlongfield New Jersey the 9<sup>th</sup> of the 4<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1781  
Certifying their Unity with their religious concern to visit  
friends yearly. Meetings at Long & Rhode Island with  
other adjacent Meetings of Discipline, they being ap-  
proved Elders

This Meeting concludes and adjourns to the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
hour to Morrow

The 9<sup>th</sup> day met according to adjournment  
The representatives being called are all present

Was read in this Meeting a Copy of a Minute from the  
Monthly Meeting held at The nine partners the 18<sup>th</sup> of the  
5<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1781, in behalf of our Friend Elizabeth Allen  
signifying her desire to attend this Meeting

Also a Copy of a Minute from the same Monthly Meeting  
bearing the same Date for our friend Susanna Clark Wife  
of Jonathan (Clark) she having a mind to attend this Meet-  
ing

Was read in this Meeting an Epistle from  
the yearly Meeting of men friends held at Philadelphia  
in the 9<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1780

also



Also one from the yearly Meeting held at Westbury on Long Island in the 5<sup>th</sup>. M<sup>o</sup>. 1781.

One general Epistle from the yearly Meeting in London the 5<sup>th</sup>. M<sup>o</sup>. 1780, containing much seasonable & affectionate advice, which we much desire may have that weight with us as to produce in our minds an earnest concern to walk worthy<sup>ly</sup> the continued regards of divine favour renewed unto us at this time.

Was read in this Meeting a Certificate from the Monthly Meeting held at New Garden in Chester County Pennsylvania by adjournment the 5<sup>th</sup>. M<sup>o</sup>. 1780, in behalf of our esteemed Friend Thomas Carrington certifying their unity with his Ministry & religious concern to visit friends in these parts.

This Meeting concludes & adjourns to next second day at the second Hour.

Second day 11<sup>th</sup> Met according to adjournment.

The representatives again called are all present.

Agreeable to appointment the Epistle for the yearly Meeting of Women at Philadelphia was brought, read & signed in behalf of this Meeting by a number of friends.

A concern for a reformation amongst us, having rested on the minds of our Brethren and they communicating it unto us; This meeting united with them therein and appoints. Mary Mitchell, Elizabeth Mott, Abigail Jenkins, Elizabeth Morrell, Patience Brayton, Elizabeth Buffum, Hannah Chase, Anne Rawell, Elizabeth Sprague, Deborah Stude, Hannah



17

Hannah Dow, Abigail Harriss, Audry Greene and  
Hannah Reed to meet a committee of men friends at  
the 10<sup>th</sup> hour to Morrow solidly to consider what may be  
best to communicate in order for the promotion of truth.

This Meeting. Adjourns to the 2<sup>nd</sup> hour to Morrow.

Third day the 12<sup>th</sup>. Met according to Adjournment.

The representatives being called were all present except  
one who was absent on the account of sickness.

Was read in this Meeting to satisfaction a Testi-  
mony concerning Elizabeth Gidley Deceased, from the Monthly  
Meeting held at Dartmouth the 19<sup>th</sup> of the 1<sup>st</sup> Mo. 1767, with  
some account of her life experience & service in the Truth.

Also an instructive Testimony concerning our esteemed  
friend Moses Tarnum Deceased from the Monthly Meeting  
held at Smithfield by adjournment the 1<sup>st</sup> of the 9<sup>th</sup>. Mo.  
1780, and by the quarterly Meeting approved.

According to the direction of last yearly meeting,  
a Book was procured, and the four last yearly meetings  
minutes therein & brought to this Meeting.

From a concern for the revival of good order in  
the church and restoring discipline in its right line;  
It is the judgment of the yearly meeting, that it would  
be of real advantage for Women friends to have the as-  
sistance of their Brethren in a Meeting Capacity when  
they receive or disown members.

A few lines from this Meeting to the Monthly Meeting  
at Nine partners, acknowledging the religious visit of  
our friend Elizabeth Height had been acceptable to us, was  
read approved & signed by the Clerk of the Men & Womens Meetings.

This



This Meeting concludes and Adjourns to the 10<sup>th</sup> hour to  
Morrow

Fourth day the 13<sup>th</sup>. Met according to Ad-  
jourment — The representatives all present —

It being concluded by the yearly meeting of Men  
Friends, that Nantucket Monthly Meeting be set off to  
Sandwich Quarter — This Meeting agreeable to their advice  
appoint Anna Wing, Alice Sprague, Audry Greene,  
Mary Brown, Deborah Slade, Anne Hacker & Elizabeth  
Mott to unite with a Committee of men friends to  
visit Sandwich Quarterly Meeting, to sit with & inform  
them of this conclusion, and see that this Minute be en-  
tered on their Minutes; as also to endeavour their uniting  
together in a right manner —

And as the select yearly meeting informs this  
meeting that Sandwich quarterly Meeting doth not  
keep up a select Meeting, which information being  
really affecting to this Meeting, said Committee are  
desired and directed to advise that Quarterly meeting  
to revive their select Meeting, and carefully observe to  
send up regular and pertinent accounts to the select  
yearly meeting of those matters, which it concerns said  
meeting to know; that so proper advice may be com-  
municated as occasion may require; And report to  
next yearly meeting —

Said Committee are also desired to visit Rhode-  
Island Quarterly Meeting and consult with them  
upon the propriety of setting off Dartmouth & Acoxet  
Monthly Meetings to Sandwich Quarter; And after



after feeling for the state of things to report their sense what may be best to be done in that case, to the next yearly Meeting. And the Clerk is desired to send a copy of this minute to Sandwich Quarterly & Nantucket Monthly Meetings.

And Nantucket Friends are desired to attend that Quarterly Meeting from time to time, as many of them as conveniently can.

The select yearly meeting proposing to this meeting that the said select meeting begin for the future on fourth day at the 10<sup>th</sup> hour, in the week the yearly meeting is held, which is approved of, and directed to be held at that time; and Salem quarter is desired to be altered, that their members may pay due attention to it, in the 6<sup>th</sup> Month.

The Committee agreeable to appointment presented the Epistles for the several quarterly Meetings, which were read, approved and Signed by Order and in behalf of this meeting by the Clerk; directed to each Quarterly Meeting, with a Transcript of the Philadelphia Epistle.

With a degree of humble thankfulness, for the divine regard extended unto us in our several sittings this meeting concludes (having had the company & labours of love of several of our Brethren) and adjourns to meet again if the Lord permit, in the 6<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1782



20 At a Yearly Meeting of Women Friends  
held at Newport for Rhode Island the 14<sup>th</sup> of the  
6<sup>th</sup> Mo 1782

The representatives being called were present,  
For Rhode Island Quarter, Mary Mitchell, Elizabeth  
Mott, Elizabeth Gladwen, Judith Russell, Hannah Ward,  
Susanna Aldrich, Desire Langford, Hannah Chase,  
Sarah Wrathbourn, Susanna Collins, Deborah Tripp  
and Rebecca Tripp

For Salem Quarter Elizabeth Morrell, Abigail  
Varney, Sarah Craftsman, Lydia Winslow, Bethia Dams

For Sandwich Quarter Abigail Dewal, Mary Rogers,  
Elizabeth Wing and Grace Hoxie

Those who were absent sent their excuses, which were  
Satisfactory

Received Accounts from each quarterly  
meeting, with Answers to the Queries — Rhode Island  
quarterly meeting informs this meeting, respecting a  
proposition of revising and making some alterations  
of the Queries; which having been considered, We appoint  
Mary Mitchell, Lois Macey, Susanna Smith  
Elizabeth Morrell, Amey Thurston and Elizabeth Mott  
to take the matter weightily under consideration & make  
such alteration as may make them more extensively  
useful & bring to this meeting, for approbation

Read



Read in this Meeting an Epistle from the yearly meeting of Women held in Philadelphia the 14<sup>th</sup> of the 9<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup> 1781, Containing seasonable advices —

We appoint Desire Langford, Elizabeth Wing, Alice Almy and Mary Rodman to prepare Epistles for the Quarterly Meeting, making such remarks, as appear necessary and bring to an adjournment of this Meeting —

This Meeting adjourns to the 10<sup>th</sup> hour to Morrow —

Seventh day 15<sup>th</sup> met according to Adjournment — The representatives called were all present —

A Certificate for our well-esteemed friend Sarah Hampton from the monthly meeting held at Plainfield East new Jersey the 18<sup>th</sup> of the 4<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup> 1781, manifesting their Unity with her religious concern to Visit Friends in New England —

Also a copy of a Minute for her companion Anne Willis from the Monthly Meeting held at Westbury on Long Island the 5<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup> 1782 — signifying her freedom to accompany the abovesaid Friend, which were read to our satisfaction —

Mary Rodman, Philadelphia Howland, Bethia Dean & Mary Rogers are appointed to Write an Epistle to the yearly Meeting of Women Friends at Philadelphia and bring to an adjournment of this meeting —

Record



Received an acceptable Epistle from the Yearly meeting of Westbury on long Island 5<sup>th</sup> A<sup>o</sup> 1782, which was read to our comfort and edification, and Hannah Wood, Mary Mitchell 2<sup>nd</sup>, Amy Harris & Elizabeth Rodman are appointed to Write an Epistle to the yearly Meeting of Women at long Island —

A Certificate for our esteemed friend William Jackson, with a Copy of a minute from the monthly meeting held in Chester County the 10<sup>th</sup> of the 1<sup>st</sup> A<sup>o</sup> 1781, and the Copy of the Minute Dated 3<sup>rd</sup> of the 11<sup>th</sup> A<sup>o</sup> 1781, Certifying their unity with his visit to Friends in these parts —

This Meeting adjourns to the 4<sup>th</sup> hour this afternoon —

Met according to adjournment —

The Representatives called are all present —

A Certificate for our well esteemed friend George Delwyn from the Monthly Meeting at Burlington the 4<sup>th</sup> of the 3<sup>rd</sup> A<sup>o</sup> 1782 — Certifying their Unity with his Ministry and Visit to Friends in New-England —

Also a Copy of a Minute from the monthly meeting held at Westbury on long Island the 5<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> A<sup>o</sup> 1782 for his Companion Joseph Pearsall —

Was read in this Meeting a Written Epistle from the Yearly meeting held in London the 6<sup>th</sup> A<sup>o</sup> 1781 — One from the yearly meeting held at Westbury on long Island for the province of new York 5<sup>th</sup> A<sup>o</sup> 1782 — Containing instructive



advice which we much desire may be carefully observed, and put in practice —

Elizabeth Lawton, Rebecca Almy & Lydia Macey are appointed to transcribe the Epistles from the yearly Meeting of Women Friends at Philadelphia and Long Island, and bring to an adjournment of this Meeting —

The mens meeting having appointed a Committee to consider of such things as may be of general service, and desired us to appoint some to unite with them therein; therefore we appoint Katharine Almy, Mary Brown, Mary Lawton, Mary Mitchell (Wife of James) with those appointed to revise the Queries viz<sup>t</sup>. Mary Mitchell, Lois Macey, Susanna Smith, Elizabeth Morrell, Amy Thurston & Elizabeth Mott to join the aforesaid Committee.

(This Meeting adjourns to the 10<sup>th</sup> hour on second day next — Second day 17. Met according to adjournment.

The Representatives called are all present —

Testimonies concerning our decess'd Friends Adam Mott, Paul Russell & Susanna Gifford, given forth from the Monthly Meeting held at Dartmouth the 28<sup>th</sup> of the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mo<sup>o</sup> 1781, which being approved of by Rhode Island quarter, was read in this Meeting to satisfaction —

This Meeting concludes and adjourns to the 4<sup>th</sup> hour this afternoon —

Fourth hour met according to Adjournment. The Representatives all present —



24. The Committee appointed on seventh day Reported  
as follows viz:—

We are of Opinion that it will be useful to  
appoint a Joint Committee to visit each quarterly  
and monthly meeting and as many preparative  
meetings as may fall in their way or may appear  
necessary, and also such families or Individuals as  
occasion may require, to labour in that ability which  
truth may afford for the revival of the Spirit of  
discipline in the minds of our Brethren & Sisters  
and to afford them every assistance that they may  
be enabled to put the same in practice, in the vari-  
ous branches of our Christian Testimony & endeavour  
for the removal of the many deficiencies mentioned  
in the Answers to the Queries & generally to promote  
Love and Unity throughout the Society —

We accordingly have appointed Elizabeth  
Wott, Mary Brown, Lois Macey, Katharine  
Almy, Amy Harris, Patience Brayton, Elizabeth  
Wing, Sarah Purington, Mary Mitchell, Eldest,  
Desire Langford & Elizabeth Sprague to unite  
with a committee of men friends for the above ser-  
vice, and make report to next yearly Meeting

This Meeting adjourns to the 10<sup>th</sup> hour to Morrow.

Third day the 18<sup>th</sup>. Met by adjournment

The representatives again called were all  
Present —



Part of the Committee appointed to visit Rhode Island  
and Sandwich quarterly Meetings, attended to the  
service and Report as follows Viz:—

We of the Committee to Visit Rhode Island & Sandwich  
Quarterly Meetings, have attended to the service and re-  
commended the revival of the Select. Meeting for Sandwich  
Quarter to which divers have been recommended & approved  
as members <sup>thereof</sup> since last year, and the meeting has been revived and kept  
up — Friends from Nantucket have paid attention to the  
Quarterly and Select. Meetings, and the Minute of the  
yearly meeting annexing them to Sandwich quarter, has  
been Minuted to be Recorded in the Quarterly Meetings  
Records —

Rhode Island quarterly Meeting  
appears to have paid attention, to the Subject of annexing  
Dartmouth & Acowet Monthly Meetings to Sandwich  
Quarter; and it appears to be the sense of Rhode Island  
quarter, that altho' they freely give them up, yet those  
monthly Meetings do not appear to be in a state suitable,  
at present, to be usefully annexed to that Quarter —

And it is our sense and judgment, that it may be  
useful for the yearly meeting to appoint a solid Committee  
to visit Sandwich quarterly Meeting, Monthly Meeting  
and such particular Meetings or individuals as may  
appear useful to strengthen <sup>or assist</sup> them as truth may enable, As  
also to visit Dartmouth and Acowet Monthly Meetings &  
endeavour to assist them in removing the difficulties that prevent  
their being usefully joined to Sandwich quarter, and if there  
appears a prospect of its being usefully effected, the agreement



Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting thereof, that they may manifest to next yearly meeting their approbation

Mary Brown	{	Tho. Hazard
{ To the Yearly Meeting in the 6th Mo. 1782 }		Eber Chase
		Isaac Lawton
		Joseph Mitchell

The Committee appointed to Revise the Queries presented them & after being read & weightily considered, were approved by this as also by the Mens Meeting, and are as follows viz:—

1<sup>st</sup> Are all Meetings for religious Worship & Discipline regularly kept up, duly attended, the hour observed and are Friends preserved from sleeping and taking snuff therein, or from interrupting the solemnity of the Occasion by frequent going out of Meetings or other indecent behaviour,

2<sup>nd</sup> Is love and unity maintained amongst you as becomes the followers of Christ; are tale-bearing, back-biting & spreading evil reports discouraged, and where any differences arise, are endeavours used speedily to end them? —

3<sup>rd</sup> Are Friends careful to bring up those under their direction, in plainness of speech behaviour and apparel, in frequent reading the holy Scriptures, to restrain them from



from reading pernicious Books and the corrupt conversation of the world? —

4<sup>th</sup> Are friends careful to avoid the too frequent use of spirituous liquors, the unnecessary frequenting of Taverns & places of diversion; and when met at Births, Marriages, Burials & all other occasions; do they in conversation & conduct keep in true moderation and temperance, as becomes the professors of the blessed truth. —

5<sup>th</sup> Are poor friends necessities duly inspected, they relieved or assisted in such business as they are capable of; do their children freely partake of learning to fit them for business; and are they and other Friends Children placed amongst Friends; and are Friends careful to visit those in affliction.

6<sup>th</sup> Do no young or single persons make or admit of proposals of marriage with each other without consent of Parents or Guardians, nor keep company with those not of our Society on that account; nor yet with those so nigh of kin as are not allowed of by our Discipline: And if Parents or Guardians give their Consent to, or connive at their Childrens keeping company contrary to the intent of this Query are they dealt with according to the Discipline: or are there any professing with us who have been present at Marriages or entertainments for Marriages solemnized contrary to the rules of our Discipline? —



7<sup>th</sup> Do no Widows admit of Proposals of Marriage within twelve Months after the Decease of a former Husband; or from Widowers in less time after the Decease of a former Wife? —

8<sup>th</sup> Do you maintain a faithful Testimony against Oaths, the payment of Priests Wages, or those called Church Rates, and against purchasing or being concerned in property taken in War, or in contributing in any way towards the Support thereof, or being concerned in Lotteries of any kind —

9<sup>th</sup> Are friends careful to make their Wills, and settle their outward Estates whilst in Health, and take friends advice therein when necessary? —

10<sup>th</sup> Are friends clear of holding mankind in slavery, and do they use those well under their care that have been set at liberty, and are not in circumstances to minister to their own necessities; and do they give those that are young such an education as becomes Christians; and are all encouraged in a religious life? —

11<sup>th</sup> Are friends careful to live within the bounds of their circumstances, and to avoid launching into trade & business beyond their abilities to manage; are they punctual to their promises, just in the pay



payment of their Debts; and are such as are faulty in those respects, timely laboured with & suitably admonished? —

12<sup>th</sup> Are there any removed without Certificates, or are there any come from other places appearing as Friends, for whom Certificates have not been produced.

13<sup>th</sup> Do you take care regularly to deal with all offenders in the spirit of meekness and wisdom, without partiality or unnecessary delay, and where any continue obstinate, is judgment according to the nature of the case placed upon them in the authority of truth? —

The same are recommended to the observation of the several quarterly meetings, and advise that proper care be taken, that Copies be sent to each Monthly Meeting; and Report to this meeting next year.

Epistles from Philadelphia and Long Island was presented to this Meeting; which being approved was signed in & on behalf of said Meeting by a Number of Friends, as also the Transcript for the several Quarterly Meetings —

A Certificate for our esteemed friend Sarah Hampton to the Monthly Meeting held at Rhaway, was read, approved and signed by the Clerks of the Men & Womens Meeting —



30 This Meeting adjourns to half after the 4<sup>th</sup> hour this afternoon

Met according to adjournment  
The representatives being called are all present except Hannah Casey & Grace Hoysie

Was read in this Meeting a Certificate on behalf of our esteemed friend W<sup>m</sup> Jackson directed to the Monthly Meeting at New Garden in Pennsylvania

Also one on behalf of our esteemed friend George Dilwyn directed to the Monthly Meeting at Burlington which were signed by the Clerks of the Mens & Womens Meeting

The Committee presented the Epistles for the several quarterly Meetings, which were read, approv'd & signed by the Clerk for this Year

The Mens Meeting taking into weighty consideration the holding the yearly Meeting, which is to be held at Newport to begin the second sixth day of the sixth Month at the 10<sup>th</sup> hour. The Select Meeting to be held at Portsmouth on fifth day at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, and proposing the same to this Meeting which is concurred with

Having been mercifully favoured, with the ownings of truth, in this our annual assembly; having had the company of several Brethren & Sisters



Sisters from the adjacent yearly meetings labours have been to our comfort and satisfaction; We desire to bow in humble thankfulness for the many favours received & conclude this Meeting, proposing if providence permit to meet again at this place at the time above mentioned

Mary Brown Clerk  
to the Meeting this Year

At a Yearly Meeting of Women held at Newport  
for New England the 13<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1783.

The representatives present are, for Rhode Island  
Mary. Mitchel 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ruth Shearman, Desire Langford,  
Susanna Aldrich, Mary Brown Jun<sup>r</sup>. Abigail Arnold Jun<sup>r</sup>,  
Hannah Chase, Sarah Wrathbourn, Mary Willbourn, Abigail  
Lawton — Salem Quarter, Mercy Dame, Patience Hawke,  
Hannah Dow, Hannah Bread, Abigail Holsome, Anne  
Hacker & Sarah Barker — Sandwich Quarter, Mary  
Lake, Mary Wing, Theziah Starbuck, Hulda Rogers.

Rec<sup>d</sup>. Accounts with Answers to the Queries from  
each Quarter, wherein we find that Meetings are kept  
up and the Business conducted in a good degree of love  
and condescension.

Notwith



Notwithstanding the many deficiencies appearing in the Answers, we have reason to believe there are a living number in each quarter, who are truly concerned to revive the Spirit of Discipline — According to the request of last yearly Meeting, we have been informed that both quarterly and Monthly Meetings have received Copies of the Queries revised —

Received acceptable Epistles from the yearly meeting of Women at Philadelphia in the 9<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup> likewise one from the yearly Meeting of Women held at Westbury on Long Island the 5<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup> which contained seasonable advice —

Bethiah Hanson, Hannah Dow & Desire Langford are appointed to Write an Epistle to the yearly Meeting of Women at Philadelphia —

Amy Harris, Abigail Tolson & Rezziah Starbuck to Write one to Flushing —

Mary Rodman Jun<sup>r</sup>, Huldah Kuffey, Hannah Stonywell, Elizabeth Peckham and Mary Lake to Write Epistles to the Quarterly Meetings, making such suitable remarks as have appear'd necessary by the Answers, and bring them to an Adjournment of this Meeting —

This Meeting Adjourns to the 11<sup>th</sup> hour on 7<sup>th</sup> day —

The mens meeting having proposed to this Meeting, the appointing a Committee to take under consideration the general State of



of Society, and of such matters as may be proper to be brought before this Meeting, which we agree to and accordingly appoint, Lois. Macy, Mary Rogers, Elizabeth Varney, Mary Mitchell 2<sup>nd</sup> Deborah Allen, Marcy Dame, Ann Thornton, Mary Brown Junr. Mary Smith, Lois Barney, Ann Weller & Abigail Varney, to unite with a Committee appointed by the mens Meeting for the above service —

This Meeting adjourns to the 10<sup>th</sup> hour  
 Seventh day 14<sup>th</sup>. Met by adjournment —

The representatives called, answered to their Names,  
 Present Abigail Lawton who was absent yesterday by reason of contrary Winds —

Four Epistles read from the mens yearly Meetings  
 One from Philadelphia held the 9<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1782 —

One from Long Island held the 24<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Mo. — One written and the general printed Epistle from London 5<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1782 — containing much affectionate advice worthy the attention of every mind —

This meeting adjourns to the 3<sup>rd</sup> hour  
 this afternoon —

Seventh day 14<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> hour met by  
 Adjournment —

The representatives called are  
 all present —

The



34  
The Committee appointed last yearly Meeting,  
Report as followeth. —

We your Committee appointed to visit  
the several <sup>& Monthly</sup> quarterly Meetings &c. Have most of  
us paid some attention to our appointment, and  
proceeded so far in the service that divers of the  
Meetings have been visited as follows vizt.

Salem Monthly meeting, held at Lynn was visited  
10<sup>th</sup> of the 9<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup>. by twelve of the Committee

Hampton Monthly Meeting at Amesbury the 13<sup>th</sup>  
& 14<sup>th</sup> by 12 —

Dover Monthly Meetg the 17<sup>th</sup> & 18 by 12 —

Falmouth Mtg. Meetg the 20 by 10

Salem Quarterly Meetg at Falmouth 21<sup>st</sup> & 23 by 10 —

Some of us also visited several Preparative Meetings  
as well as Families & Individuals in the verge of  
Salem Quarterly Meeting, which Services as also those  
in the larger Meetings, were attended with close  
labour & exercise, in order to impress a sense of the  
necessity of maintaining our Christian Discipline,  
and abiding in the Spirit & exercise of sound judgment  
over the head of the Transgressor in all —

Pembroke



35

Pembroke Monthly Meeting was Visited the 4<sup>th</sup> of  
the 10<sup>th</sup> Mo. by 15 of the Committee

Sandwich Quarterly Meeting at Pembroke the 5<sup>th</sup> of  
the 6<sup>th</sup> Mo. by 15

Sandwich Monthly Meeting at the long plain the 8<sup>th</sup>  
by 15

It appears to us after visiting the above  
Meetings in Sandwich Quarter, and upon weighty con-  
ference, with divers friends there, that altho' their weak  
& interruption by disowned Members, still in degree continues,  
yet we hope it is growing somewhat better; And in regard  
to annexing Dartmouth and Acoset monthly meetings to that  
quarter; considering the present state of these two monthly  
meetings we are of opinion, it had better be referred for  
further consideration

Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting at Dartmouth  
was visited on the 10<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> days by 18 of the Committee.

Smithfield. Monthly Meeting on the 27 & 28 of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mo.  
1783 by 8 — And Rhode Island Monthly Meeting  
the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the 4<sup>th</sup> Mo. by 11

On the whole we have reason to believe the above  
labour bestowed in that ability which truth gave, were of  
some service, at least, in some of the above mentioned visits;  
and think as the work is not yet fully accomplished, that  
a continuation of the like care in the yearly Meeting,

and



and a like Visit by some solid Friends to the remaining meetings (and most likely to some of the same) may be useful, which with all the above Report we submit to your consideration

Signed in & on behalf of the Committee

By — Joshua Tolson } Mary Mitchell  
 Isaac Lantton } Silence Brayton.  
 14<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> Mo 1783

Which report being accepted & believing a continuation of the Committee may be useful, to Visit quarterly, monthly & preparative meetings, Families or Individuals; and are to repeat their Visit to such parts as to them appears necessary & the way opens to endeavour to revive the Spirit of Discipline and to promote love and Unity in the Society —

We continue said Committee and add thereto Hannah Dow, Mary Mitchel 2<sup>nd</sup> Ann Hacker, Bethia Hanson, Marcy Dame, Mary Rogers & Lois Barney to unite with the Committee from the mens meeting, and make report to our next yearly meeting —

And they are likewise requested to take into consideration the manner of holding the several quarterly meetings belonging hereto and give their advice thereon in their Report to our next Yearly Meeting —



This Meeting adjourns to the 10<sup>th</sup> hour on 2<sup>nd</sup> day  
 Second day 16<sup>th</sup> Met by Adjournment

The representatives called are all present except  
 Mary Mitchel the 2<sup>nd</sup> and Marcy Dame, who at-  
 tended a Committee now sitting

The Committee presented the Epistles for Philadel-  
 phia and Long Island yearly Meetings, which were  
 signed on behalf of said Meeting by a number of friends

Also those for the Quarterly Meetings, which being  
 read were approved and signed by the Clerk for the  
 Meeting this year

This Meeting adjourns to the 3<sup>rd</sup> hour  
 this afternoon

Met by Adjournment the 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour

The representatives called are all present  
 except Mary Mitchell & Marcy Dame, who are on a  
 Committee

It being represented to this Meeting, that  
 since Nantucket monthly meeting hath been joined  
 to Sandwich Quarter, a Quarterly meeting hath been  
 held on that Island, at the same time that their yearly  
 Meeting used to be held at that place, which being in  
 respect of usefulness fully adequate to the end intended by the  
 institution of that yearly Meeting; It is concluded that yearly  
 Meeting be discontinued

This Meeting adjourns to the  
 10<sup>th</sup> hour to morrow



Third day the J Met by Adjournment

The representatives called are all present except two who are unwell

We your Committee to consider of what may be proper to lay before the yearly Meeting as Business, having several times met, Report as followeth

In regard to the matter of men & Womens meetings being united in disowning & receiving Members, referred last year; Report, which having been under consideration of this Meeting and is as followeth.

When any person requests the care of friends, and when any friend is taken under dealing in any monthly Meeting, such meeting whether mens or womens acquaint the other thereof in order for their uniting their sympathy and help if they think it best; And when the Meeting to whom application is made, or by whom the Friend may be under dealing, are about to receive, restore or disown the person under care, that both Meetings be acquainted therewith, and their concurrence manifested before the conclusion be entered

And when the approbation of both men & Women be obtained, the same be entered on their respective Minutes; and it is desired that men & Women be attentive and ready in their Monthly & Quarterly



Meetings to unite their assistance to each other when it appears useful & best; whether expressly desired or not; and that Testimonies of denial be read & approved in both Meetings before the same be signed

As there is not a prospect of a general Discipline taking place soon, we think a suitable Committee of friends to Revise our Discipline might be useful their progress therein reported to the next year ly Meeting

It is the judgment of this Committee that it may be best to read all Testimonies of denial in a publick meeting, except Monthly meetings consider the person or persons disowned to have lived such lives, that they have not been deemed members among Friends by people not of our Society, or unless it shall appear to the satisfaction of the monthly meeting such publication may be injurious to the cause of truth And further that acknowledgements from persons restored be published at the discretion of Monthly Meetings they duly observing the Discipline

The yearly meeting to be held at New-  
port, to begin the second sixth day of the 6<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup> at  
the 10<sup>th</sup> hour

The Select Meeting to be held at  
Northmouth on 5<sup>th</sup> day at the 10<sup>th</sup> hour

The mens meeting proposing the same, it is con-  
curried with

The



40. The matter respecting a proposition from the mens meeting, of revising the Discipline, having been considered is referred under the care of the yearly meetings Committee, and they in their freedom to fit with the Meeting for sufferings to which that service is referred

A Copy extracted from the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held at Westbury by adjournments the 4<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1783, for our esteemed friend Richard Titus, who had drawings in his mind to this (Meeting)

Also a certificate for our <sup>esteemed</sup> Friend Robert Nesbit from the Monthly Meeting held at East Hoosack the 12<sup>th</sup> of the 12<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1782 which were read to satisfaction

Certificates on behalf of our above named Friends were read, approved & signed by the Clerk for this year of both mens & womens Meeting

Having been favoured in some degree through the several sittings, with the presence of him who is the Crown of our Assemblies, conclude this Meeting, proposing if providence permit to meet again at this place, at the time above mentioned

{ Mary Brown Clk to the Meeting this year



At a Yearly Meeting held at Newport for  
New England the 14<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1784

The Representatives present are — For Rhode Island,  
Mary Mitchel 2<sup>nd</sup>, Elizabeth Mott, Judith Russell, Susanna  
Marich, Deborah Mowry, Mary Willbourn, Margary Bassett  
Mary Brown Lydia Tillinghast — For Salem, Elizabeth  
Tabor, Marcy Dame, Lydia Winslow — Sandwich, Abigail  
Allen, Mary Lake, Phebe Wing Lydia Gould —

We rec<sup>d</sup>. Accounts from each Quarter with Answers to  
the Queries, wherein we find that Meetings are all continued,  
and altho' there appears many deficiencies, there pointed out,  
and we believe there is a number who are labouring for good  
order in the Society, and a living concern rests upon them  
for keeping up true discipline

In Epistle from the yearly Meeting of Women  
held at Philadelphia 9<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1783 — Also one from the  
Yearly Meeting of Women held at Westbury on Long Island  
from the 26<sup>th</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> Mo. to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1784  
containing seasonable advices

Sarah Rodman, Mary Rodman, Alice Almy &  
Lydia Winslow are appointed to Write to the several Quar-  
terly Meetings and report to the adjournment on second  
day next

Abigail Starbuck, Lydia Gould,  
Elizabeth Thurston are appointed to Write an Epistle to the  
yearly Meeting <sup>of Women</sup> at Philadelphia and bring to the adjourn-  
ment on second day next — Mary Brown clk  
to the Meeting this Year.



Philadelphia Novland, Audrey Green Phibe Wing & Dorcas  
Earl are appointed to draft an Epistle to the yearly  
Meeting of Women at Flushing, also bring it to the  
Adjournment on second day next —

The mens meeting having informed that they had  
appointed a Committee to take into consideration the  
general State of Society, and proposing the same to this Meet-  
ing, which was concurred with, and we accordingly appoint  
Hannah Earl, Mary Mitchell Dr<sup>o</sup> Elizabeth Tabor, Elizabeth  
Mott, Mary Brown, Marcy Dame, Abigail Allen, Sarah  
Barney to unite in said service, and make report of such  
Business as may appear necessary to bring before this Meetg.

Q Certificate for our esteemed friend John Willis from  
the Monthly Meeting held at Westbury (on Long Island) the  
25<sup>th</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> Mo 1784, which manifested a concern to  
pay a religious visit to friends in these parts —

Also one from the Monthly Meeting held at Westbury  
the 26<sup>th</sup> of the Month for our friend David Willet, who  
having expressed a concern to attend this and some adja-  
cent Meetings — //



// And one for our esteemed friend Samuel Hopkins from the Monthly Meeting held at Philadelphia 24<sup>th</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1784, who having a concern resting on his mind to attend this and also some other Meetings —

One for our esteemed friend Thomas Scattergood from the Monthly Meeting held at Philadelphia for the Northern District 25<sup>th</sup> of the 3<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1784 — who being concerned to visit this meeting and having a prospect of some further Service in New England —

One from the Monthly Meeting held at the Creek (Nine partners) 21<sup>st</sup> 3<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1784 for our esteemed friend David Sands who being under the like concern —

Likewise a Copy of a Minute for our <sup>esteemed</sup> friend Viddiman Hull who informed that he had a mind to visit this meeting, were all read to satisfaction as it appeared they were in unity at home and their Ministry approved —

This Meeting adjourns to the 10<sup>th</sup> hour to Morrow.

Seventh day 12<sup>th</sup> met by adjournment —

The Representatives were all present that heretofore attended —

A Minute concerning receiving & disowning Members & made the last year, by some means was omitted being sent down to the several quarterly Meetings, was taken under consideration and it is the conclusion of this Meeting of this Meeting that a copy be extracted and sent to each quarter, desiring their attention and care to furnish each monthly meeting with Copies thereof & advise that they be entered upon their Records —



Four Epistles read, one from the yearly meeting of men held at Philadelphia the 9th Mo. 1783

One from the yearly meeting of men held at Westbury on Long Island 5th Mo. 1784

Also one written and a general printed Epistle from the yearly meeting of men held in London the 9th Mo. 1783 — affording profitable advice and instruction to many

This meeting adjourns to the 3rd hour this afternoon

The third hour met by Adjournment.

The Representatives all present and answered to their names except Lydia Winslow & Elizabeth Tabor

Hannah Read, Desire Langford, Martha Davis, Patience Potter for whose <sup>absence</sup> satisfactory reasons were given

The Committee continued and added to last year for visiting the several Meetings hereto belonging, made Report in Writing as follows viz

Which is accepted and the manner of holding the quarterly Meetings, being in future, as therein recommended, with such other matters as may be necessary for the respective quarterly Meetings, are directed to be sent down to them

We your Committee to Visit the several quarterly and Monthly Meetings &c have most of us attended to that service, and visited all the quarterly Meetings, and most of the Monthly Meetings & laboured in that ability afforded



We find the interruption of our Meetings here, in Sandwich Quarter, by those who hold separate Meetings with the other circumstances attending, are upon the whole much the same as last year; So that we think an Addition from Rhode Island Quarter would be useful provided Dartmouth & Scitasset monthly meetings could find themselves engaged to unite with that quarter; but as we find that is not the case at present, we think it may be as well to dismiss the matter of making an addition until a more favourable opportunity presents; recommending these two Meetings to endeavour for such a state as may effect the desirable purpose of strengthening that quarterly meeting by their union with them, which we hope in time may be happily effected —

We have considered the holding the several quarterly meetings belonging to this Meeting, and recommended the holding them as follows viz. —

Rhode Island Quarter to be held on the same day of the month as heretofore, that is, the 5<sup>th</sup> day before the second 6<sup>th</sup> day in the following months —

St. Smithfield upper Meeting-house in the 7<sup>th</sup> Month.  
 Dartmouth in the 10<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup>.  
 Swansey in the 1<sup>st</sup> M<sup>o</sup>.  
 Greenwich in the 4<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup>.

Salem Quarterly Meeting at Chalmouth the 7<sup>th</sup> day before the 1<sup>st</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> day in the 9<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup>. —

Dover the 7<sup>th</sup> day before the 1<sup>st</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> day in the 12<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup>.

Hampton the 7<sup>th</sup> day before the 1<sup>st</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> day in the 3<sup>rd</sup> M<sup>o</sup>. —



46 Salem the 1<sup>st</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> day in the 6<sup>th</sup> Month

## Sandwich Quarter

Nantucket, the 3<sup>rd</sup> day after the 1<sup>st</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> day in  
the 6<sup>th</sup> Mo.

Long Plain, the 7<sup>th</sup> day before the 2<sup>nd</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> day in the  
10<sup>th</sup> Mo.

Falmouth the 1<sup>st</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> day in the 1<sup>st</sup> Month

Sandwich, the 7<sup>th</sup> day before the last first day in  
the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mo.

And as no. Meetings for worship are held on the  
first day of the quarterly. Meeting in Salem quarter  
preceeding their opening the Business: We recommend  
their holding such a Meeting agreeable to the prac-  
tice of other quarterly. Meetings — all which  
we submit to the meeting —

Signed by Order & in } Tho. Hazard  
behalf of the Committee } Katharine. Wemy

12<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1784 —

This Meeting. Adjourns to the 10<sup>th</sup> hour next  
Second day —



Second day the 14<sup>th</sup> Met by Adjournment

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The Representatives all present that have attended except Hannah Earl, who was absent on account of sickness.

The Committee appointed to Write to the Quarterly Meetings, presented the Epistles which were read, approved & signed by the Clerk to the Meeting this Year, and directed to each quarterly Meeting, with transcripts of the Philadelphia and Westbury Epistles; with an extract from the yearly Meeting held in the 6<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1783 respecting receiving & disowning members &c. — Also a copy of a minute discouraging the excessive use of spirituous liquors of all kinds; Also was added in the Epistle the Order of holding the several quarterly Meetings the ensuing year and that a Meeting of Worship preceeding the quarter be held at Salem —

The Committee according to appointment presented — The Epistles to the yearly meeting of Women at Philadelphia & Flushing were read, approved and signed on behalf & by direction of said Meeting by the Clerk — The Committee to take into consideration

the general State of Society make report viz. —  
Which being accepted and said advices are recommended to the attention and practical observance of friends accordingly, and the Clerk is desired to furnish each quarter with a copy thereof. —

The excessive use of spirituous Liquors of all kinds, having for a long time been seen by our Society, to be a practice tending to lead from calmness and innocency, to the many evils which are the consequence  
of



48. of intemperance, and a concern having care for the  
Spreading of this testimony, not only to the disuse of  
distilled spiritous liquors amongst us, except as me-  
dicine, but that others also by our example be en-  
couraged to restrain its use within the limits of  
Truth — We recommend to all Friends every  
where, carefully to look at the motives of being  
concerned therewith, not only with using, but of  
distilling, importing, trading in or handing out  
to others, who from habit may have acquired a  
thirst and inclination after it tending to their hurt,  
And we tenderly advise all such as are concerned  
therein to Centre down to the principle leading  
to universal righteousness: — And as we appre-  
hend a continuance in such practices, will in this  
day of light, not only weaken the hands of those  
individuals concerned to further the reformation,  
but tend greatly to obstruct Society from holding  
up a standard to this important Testimony,  
as becometh our holy profession —

We entreat therefore, those who have begun well,  
and made advances in the way towards their  
own peace, that as soon as may be they forbear  
the said practices, that a line may in due  
time be drawn and the Standard raised and

Spread



to the Nations. — And as a concern has arise  
 that we be preserv'd in a grateful sense of the Lords caus-  
 ing the Sword to be put up and peace to be proclaimed  
 among the Nations; We desire friends to remember the  
 Apostles advice; Mind your calling Brethren

And where any may move in any business or calling  
 different from what they have been brought up in or ac-  
 customed to, that they endeavour to find the liberty of the  
 Truth & the Unity of Friends, before they engage therein —  
 And we also recommend to those concerned in Trade and  
 Business of every kind, that they have an eye to the  
 preservation of our Testimony in every branch, as thereby  
 the unity of the body may be preserved, and an enlarge-  
 ment of the peace of individuals witnessed —

Signed in behalf of the Committee

by

Thos. Hazard

14<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> Mo 1784

Mary Mitchell

This Meeting adjourns to half after the 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour

Met by Adjournment

The Representatives present & Answerd to their Names  
 except one who was absent —



Two Epistles read, One from the Meeting for Sufferings held at Philadelphia the 20<sup>th</sup> of the 9<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1783

Also one from the Meeting for Sufferings held at Portsmouth for New England the 6<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1784, which were truly edifying and satisfactory

This Meeting is to be held the ensuing year at this place: The Select Meeting to begin at Portsmouth 5<sup>th</sup> day at the 11<sup>th</sup> Hour

Sixth day at the 10<sup>th</sup> hour for Worship & the third hour in the afternoon for Discipline, at this place if permitted

This Meeting concludes & acknowledges the loving kindness of the Lord under a sense of a renewed Visitation, which hath been extended to us through the several sittings thereof, and calls for an humble walking before him who is still gracious and willing to do us good, and earnestly desiring that each one may be favoured to retain the favour of life when far separated.

Signed on behalf of said Meeting  
By

Mary Brown Clerk



At a Yearly Meeting of Women held at Newport  
for New England the 10<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1785.

The Representatives present for Rhode Island are,  
Mary Rodman, Ruth Shearman, Elizabeth Mosher, Judith  
Russell, Sarah Howland, Desire Langford, Anna Thornton,  
Hepriza Buffum, Mary Austin, Elizabeth Staid, Hannah Haxfic,  
Sarah Haxfic, Mary Tripp, Mchitable Chas, Mary Brown,  
Rhoda Barrett, Sarah Arnold — For Salem Quarter,  
Abigail Dame, Hannah Dow, Elizabeth Dean — For Sandwich  
Quarter, Lois Macy, Rest Bowerman & Elizabeth Gould.

Receiv<sup>d</sup>. Accounts, with Answers to the Queries from  
each Quarterly Meeting wherein we observe with sorrow the  
neglect in the due attendance of our religious Meetings, both  
on first and other days of the week, with divers other departures  
from our Christian profession; yet notwithstanding the lukewarm-  
ness and indifferency which may appear, we believe there  
are a sincere remnant preserved alive in each Quarter, who  
have the cause honestly at heart, and are endeavouring to pro-  
mote it in example and precept —

Was read a certificate from the monthly meeting held  
at Cane Creek in North Carolina the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the 7<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1784,  
for our Friend Zacharias Dicks, who having manifested  
a concern to pay a religious visit to friends in these parts,  
they having unity therewith — Likewise one from the  
Quarterly Meeting held at New Garden in North Carolina  
by Adjournments from the 4<sup>th</sup> of the 8<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1784, to the 10<sup>th</sup>  
of the same, setting forth his concern to visit Friends in great  
Britain, Ireland or elsewhere —

Our Friend Abel Thomas attended this Meeting with  
his Certificate from the Monthly Meeting of Exeter held at  
mai



52 Maiden Creek Pennsylvania the 30<sup>th</sup> of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mo 1785.  
informing that he hath a mind to make a religious  
visit to some Meetings about Albany, and having  
the Unity of friends therewith.

Also our Friend Ann Jessop attended this Meet-  
ing with a certificate from the Monthly meeting held  
at new Garden North Carolina by adjournment from  
the 31<sup>st</sup> of the 7<sup>th</sup> Mo 1784, informing that she hath  
had a concern resting on her mind for some time to visit  
the Northern part of America, and producing one  
from the Quarterly Meeting held at new Garden in North  
Carolina by adjournment the 14<sup>th</sup> of the 8<sup>th</sup> Mo 1784, to the  
16<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive, expressing her concern to visit  
friends in Europe, and their unity with her concern  
therein.

Also our friend Joseph Potts  
hath attended this Meeting with his Certificate from  
the Monthly Meeting held at Gwinnee in Pennsylvania  
the 26<sup>th</sup> of the 4<sup>th</sup> Mo 1785, who having a concern to visit  
this Meeting, and some others this way; — And also  
a copy of a Minute from the same Monthly Meeting for  
John Jacob his Companion.

Likewise our friend Joshua Morris attended this  
Meeting and produced a copy of a minute from the Month-  
ly meeting at Abington the 30<sup>th</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> Mo 1785 —  
Which were all read to satisfaction.

The friends appointed to prepare Epistles for the  
Quarterly meetings are Desire Langford Hannah Dwo  
Alice Almy, Amy Harris, Sarah Rodman, Elizabeth  
Dean, and they are desired to bring them to the adjournment  
on 2<sup>nd</sup> day.

Those appointed to prepare Epistles for the  
Yearly Meetings of Women Friends at Philadelphia and  
Long Island to bring them to the adjournment on 2<sup>nd</sup> day are



are Dorcas Earl, Mary Brown, Rachel Mitchell, Lois Macy. 53

This Meeting adjourns to the 11<sup>th</sup> hour to Morrow.

Seventh day the 11<sup>th</sup>. Met by Adjournment

The Representatives all present

• Abigail C. Arnold sent a few lines informing this Meeting, that she was prevented attending this Meeting by sickness

• An Epistle from the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held at Philadelphia from the 27<sup>th</sup> of the 9<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup> to the 1<sup>st</sup> of the 10<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup> 1784

• And one from Westbury on Long Island in the 5<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup> 1785, containing affectionate and seasonable advice; were read to good satisfaction

This Meeting adjourns to the 11<sup>th</sup> hour on second day next — Second day the 13<sup>th</sup>. Met by Adjournment, at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour

The Representatives present except some who are at this time on a committee

This Meeting adjourns to the 4<sup>th</sup> hour this afternoon

• Met by adjournment at the 4<sup>th</sup> hour on second day  
• The Representatives present except such as are still on the Committee — The Committee presented the Epistles for the several Quarterly Meetings, which were read, approved and sign'd by the clerk, directed to each quarter with Copies of the Philadelphia and Long Island Epistles.

Likewise the Committee presented the Epistles for Philadelphia and Long Island, which were read, approved and sign'd by the clerk of the Meeting this year

• A Written and general printed Epistle from the Yearly Meeting held in London from the 31<sup>st</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup> 1784, The reading whereof was comfortable and edifying, affording instruction to some minds

• Two Written Epistles were read, one from the Yearly Meeting of men held in Philadelphia from the 27<sup>th</sup> of the 9<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup> to the 1<sup>st</sup> of the 10<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup> inclusive 1784, One



One from the yearly Meeting of Men held at Westbury  
by adjournments from the 28<sup>th</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> Mo to the 1<sup>st</sup>  
of the 6<sup>th</sup> Mo 1785 — the Counsel and advice therein  
seemable

This Meeting. Adjourns to the second hour  
to Morrow

Third day met according to Adjournment

The Representatives all present and Answered  
to their Names, except Elizabeth Hooper and Ste-  
phen Bussam

The men Friends proposing to  
This Meeting, that they were about to read the  
Discipline, as now revised by the Meeting for sufferings  
which was committed to them in the Year 1782, and  
our appointed Committee to sit with one appointed by  
them to attend said Service, which we unite with  
and Elizabeth Mott, Mary Brown, Lois Macy, Catharine  
& Almy, Amy Harris, Desire Langford, Hannah Don-  
& Mary Mitchell & Hannah Read, Betty Holcomb,  
& Whittable Chase, & Margaret Smith, who inform us  
that they have fulfilled their appointment, and their  
Report to the Meeting is as followeth.

To the Yearly Meeting  
now sitting

We your Committee respect-  
ing the proposed Discipline  
have met with the Members of the  
Meeting for Sufferings, and heard it read, and with  
such alterations as are now made are easy therewith,  
and submit the disposal thereof to the yearly Meeting

Signed on behalf of the Committee, by

Newport the 14<sup>th</sup> of the  
6<sup>th</sup> Mo 1785 —

{ Paul Greene  
Catharine Almy



Which report is received, and we conclude to leave it to the Men's Meeting to transmit it to the lower Meetings, as they may see best.

Certificate signed by the Clerk for this year, on behalf of our Friend, Ann Jessup, to the Monthly Meeting of Friends of New Garden in North Carolina.

This Meeting is to be held the ensuing year at this place, The select Meeting to begin at Portsmouth on 3<sup>rd</sup> day at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour. Sixth day Meeting for Worship at the 10<sup>th</sup> hour, and at the third hour in the afternoon for Discipline at Newport if permitted.

This Meeting hath been attended with close exercise, through the severall sittings thereof, yet not without some refreshment from the bountiful hand, to sustain and encourage in the way of well doing, and to excite to more diligence and circumspection if favored to meet again, in the like manner, we desire we may witness the seed more to come up into dominion.

This Meeting concludes

Signed in and on behalf of said Meeting  
By

Mary Brown Clerk this year



36 All a Yearly Meeting of Women held at  
Newport for New England the 9<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup>  
1786 — The representatives for Rhode Island  
Quarter are — Elizabeth Hadwen, Ruth  
Shearman, Patience Austin — Sarah Howland,  
Desire Langford, Hannah Casey, Elizabeth Arnold,  
Rebecca Tripp, Alice Congdon, Sarah Knowles,  
Rachel Steere, Joanna Thove, Mary Brown and  
Amy Harriß. — Salem, Anne  
Hacker, Hannah Dow — Sandwich, Elizabeth Barker,  
Mary Lake, Phebe Wing, Rachel Mitchell. —

Amey Thurston being unwell did not attend —  
Ailes Sprague and Bethia Macomber sent  
excuses for their absence from this Meeting which  
appear'd satisfactory —

By accounts Rec<sup>d</sup> this year from each  
Quarter with Answers to the Queries we learn  
Meetings are attended by the larger number in a  
general way, yet not without cause of complaint  
in that respect as well as in other branches of  
truths testimony ~~which is apparently~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~seen~~, which  
is apparently seen and felt among us, arising we  
believe from too great an indifferency concerning those  
things which belong to our peace, but notwithstanding  
there is in the several quarters a right zeal & care  
subsisting for the preservation of good order & main-  
taining our Christian discipline —

Rec<sup>d</sup> an Epistle from the yearly Meeting of



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of Women held at Philadelphia, 9<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup> 1786, which was read, directing us to keep a single eye to the truth in all our steppings along, so that we may be enabled to fill up rightly our several allotments

A Certificate for our friend Sarah Lundy, whose company we are now favoured with, Dated at King-wood Monthly Meeting New-Jersey, the 8. of the 9<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup> 1785, directed to friends in the eastern parts of new-England and parts adjacent, expressive of their unity with her Ministry, also one for her companion Cynthia Irish Dated from the Monthly Meeting at the oblong 17<sup>th</sup> of 10 M<sup>o</sup> 1786, which were read to satisfaction

The following certificates were presented from the mens meeting — Our friend John Storer's Dated at Nottingham monthly meeting, old England, the 6<sup>th</sup> of the 3<sup>rd</sup> M<sup>o</sup> 1785, expressive of their Unity with his Ministry and visit to friends in America — with one from the quarterly Meeting held at the same place the 28. of said M<sup>o</sup> likewise a concurring one from the yearly meeting of Ministers and elders, held in London from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 23 of the 5<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup> 1785

Our Friend, John Townsen's Dated at the Monthly Meeting held at Devonshire house London the 5<sup>th</sup> of the 4<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup> 1785, manifesting their Unity with his ministry & making a visit to friends in America to whom it is directed with a concurring one from the quarterly meeting held at the same place

the



58.  
the 11<sup>th</sup> of said M<sup>o</sup> and produce one from the  
yearly meeting of ministers & Elders held in  
London from the 14<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> of the 5 M<sup>o</sup> 1785

Our friend Nicholas Waln's Dated at the Monthly  
Meeting of Philadelphia, held for the southern  
district the 26 of 4 M<sup>o</sup> last, directed <sup>to friends</sup> in the government  
of new-york and new-england, expressive of their  
unity with his ministry and intended visit,  
with a concurring one from the quarterly  
meeting held in Philadelphia the 1<sup>st</sup> of the  
5 M<sup>o</sup> 1786

Our friend Peter  
Yearnall's dated at the Monthly Meeting of  
Warrington, York County, 11<sup>th</sup> of 2 M<sup>o</sup> last, directed  
to friends on Long-Island and new-England ex-  
pressing their unity with his ministry & concern;  
with a Certificate of concurrence from the  
quarterly meeting held at Warrington 20<sup>th</sup>  
of the 3 M<sup>o</sup> last

Our friend Elisha Kirk's dated at the  
aforesaid Monthly Meeting of Warrington directed  
to friends in new-england, expressive of their  
unity with his Ministry & intended visit with  
a Certificate of concurrence from the quarterly  
Meeting held at Warrington

Our friend Robert Willis' Copy of a minate  
Dated at Rahway M<sup>o</sup> Meeting 18 of 5 M<sup>o</sup> last  
manifesting their unity with his desire to at-



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attend some Meetings in New York government  
and New England.

Our friend Gideon Seamon attended this meeting with a Copy of a minute from Westbury Monthly Meeting, date 31 of 5 M<sup>o</sup> 1786, Expressive of their Unity with him as an elder & their freedom in his accompanying our friend John Townshend to this Meeting — all which certificates and Copies of minutes were read in this Meeting to satisfaction —

Our friends Desire Langford, Mary Rodman, Amy Harriss and Abigail Varney are appointed to Write to the several Quarterly Meetings and bring the same to the adjournment of this Meeting on second day — Our friends Elizabeth Barker, Lydia Brown, Anne Flacker are appointed to Write to the yearly Meeting of Women at Philadelphia and Long Island and are to lay them before the adjournment of this Meeting on second day —

This Meeting concludes to meet at the same hour the mens meeting adjourns ~~to~~ to morrow —

Seventh day the 10<sup>th</sup> met according to our conclusion of the hour fixed by the adjournment of the mens meeting — The representatives being called are all present — Amey Thurston attended to day —

Read in this Meeting an Epistle from the yearly Meeting <sup>of Women</sup> on Long Island 5 M<sup>o</sup> 1786, The seasonable advices and cautions therein contained we hope may be pro-



profitably regarded by us; particularly that paragraph which reminds us of the days of trials, which seem to be a little over and ~~soon~~ to be too soon forgotten by many of us —

Sandwich quarterly Meeting in their Account inform that Ann Hussey had appealed from the judgment of that Meeting in the 6 M<sup>o</sup> last, which being called up, and she neither appearing to prosecute it, nor sending any reasons for her non appearance, according to our rule of discipline under that head, it is dismissed —

Epistles presented from the mens meeting are from the yearly meeting held at Long Island in the 5 M<sup>o</sup> 1786. One from the yearly Meeting of men in Philadelphia with the written and general printed Epistles; Many suitable admonitions and affectionate advices contained therein were read to our edification and encouragement —

Amey Thurston Elizabeth Mott, and Elizabeth Hadwen are appointed to prepare Certificates for our friend Sarah Lundy and her companion Cynthia Irish, the same to be brought to the Meeting on second day —

The mens meeting having informed us they have appointed a committee to consider the general matters of society and proposing the same to this



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Meeting, and after consideration we unite  
therein and believe it may be of use if weightily  
attended to, and accordingly appoint, Anne  
Hacker, Hannah Dow, Mary Brown, Anne  
Harris, Mary Mitchell 1<sup>st</sup>. Mary Mitchell 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
Elizabeth Mott, Marcy Dame, Phebe Wing, Eliza-  
beth Barker, Abigail Varney — to sit with a com-  
mittee of men for that service and make re-  
port to this Meeting

Adjourned to the 10 hour, the 12<sup>th</sup> Inst. —

12 day Met by Adjournment

The representatives being called were all  
~~present~~ except 2 which were absent on the  
account of sickness — As business does not  
appear ready to lay before this meeting, it is con-  
cluded to adjourn unto the 10 hour to morrow —

13 day 10<sup>th</sup> hour, met by adjournment —

The representatives being called are  
all present that were heretofore — The Epistles  
to the Quarterly Meetings, the yearly Meeting  
of Philadelphia and Long Island being read and  
approved were signed by the clerk and Transcripts  
of those we <sup>recd</sup> ~~recd~~ from them to be sent to each quar-  
ter — A certificate in behalf of our friend Sarah  
Lundy directed to the Monthly Meeting of Ringwood  
being



being read & approved was signed by the clerk  
of each meeting, and also in behalf of Cynthia  
Irish her companion directed to the Monthly  
Meeting of friends at the oblong

This Meeting adjourns to the 3 hour this after-  
noon

The 3 hour, met by adjournment  
The representatives being called are all present  
as in the Morning

Those friends that was under appointment  
to join with a committee of men friends to  
consider of the present state of society, having  
several times met and considered thereon, report  
that there appeared no business in particular  
to lay before this meeting

Certificates for our friends John Storer and  
John Townshend directed to their respective  
Monthly Meetings, with endorsement on the  
Certificates of our friend Nicholas Wain, Peter  
Yearmall, Elisha Kirk, Robert Willis and  
Gideon Seamon manifesting our satisfaction  
with their company and labours being read ap-  
proved and signed by the clerks

It is recommended to the Quarterly Meeting  
that they appoint a committee of suitable pe-



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judicious friends to Visit the Monthly Meetings, and it is requested that they make report of their progress therein to the Meeting next year —

This meeting having been measurably favoured through its several sittings with the renewed extendings of divine regard, and a fresh visitation seems to be extended to the very out casts of our Israel, that they may not only be the called but the chosen of the Lord, and may each of us make a wise improvement from such unmerited mercies conclude and adjourn until next year, then with divine permission to meet again at this place, beginning at Portsmouth on the 5<sup>th</sup> day before the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of 6<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup> agreeable to our discipline —

Signed in and on behalf of said Meeting by — Mary Brown  
Clerk to the Meeting this Year —



At a yearly Meeting of Women held at  
Newport for New England the 8<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> Mo.  
1787. The representatives for Rhode Island  
Mary Wozh, Martha Gifford, Judith Russell  
Desire Langford, Hannah Ersey, Elizabeth Buffum  
Abigail Pearce, Abigail Sawton, Susanna  
Cornell, Sarah Nopsie, Sarah Willbour, Eunice Scott  
Abigail Arnold Lydia Tillinghast.

Salem - Hannah Dow, Anna Macker  
Sandwich, Sarah Barker, being called upon  
are all present except, Sarah Arnold, Abigail  
Wing, Marcy Dame who sent sufficient rea-  
sons why they did not attend. We were not  
informed why Marcy Dame did not attend.

Mary Brown appointed Clerk for this year -  
Elizabeth Arnold appointed to assist the Clerk.

Our friend Anna Hoag attended this Meet.<sup>y</sup>  
with her Certificate from the Monthly Meet.<sup>y</sup>  
held at Saratoga 19<sup>th</sup> of the 4<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1787  
expressing her concern to attend this Meeting,  
and their concurrence and unity with her in  
making a religious visit to friends in the eastern  
part of New England; also a Copy of a minute  
for her Companion Susanna Collins, who having  
a mind to attend this meeting, from the monthly  
meeting held at Saratoga 24<sup>th</sup> of the 3<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1787.



By accounts brought up from each Quarter with answers to the Queries, which were read in this meeting, and some judicious and seasonable remarks made therein by them, we find they have received the epistles from the Meetings with transcripts of Philadelphia & Long Island Epistles, and the advices sent down to some inferior meetings — Rhode Island further informs they have complied with the direction of the last yearly meeting respecting appointing a committee to visit the monthly meetings, they have made some progress therein, the other quarters have it still under notice, and are in a labour for an amendment, and notwithstanding the many deficiencies appearing we are comforted with a belief that there are in the several quarters a number who are concern'd at heart to promote the cause of truth in example and precept —

Read in this meeting an epistle from the yearly meeting of Women friends held at Philadelphia 5<sup>th</sup> mo 1787 — The salutary advice therein we desire may have its proper weight in our minds —

Desire Langford, Abigail Lawton and Sarah Rodman are appointed to prepare an essay to the yearly meeting of Women at Philadelphia and bring



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bring to the adjournment of this meeting)

Amey Harrist, Lydid Masey, Alice Army  
are appointed to write an essay to the quarterly  
meetings, and bring to the adjournment.

Katharin Army is added to said committee,  
which adjourn to the 10<sup>th</sup> hour to morrow.

(Seventh day the 7<sup>th</sup> met by adjournment.  
The representatives being called are all pre-  
sent that attended yesterday.

The following certificates, & minutes, handed  
from the mens meeting.

One for our friend Samuel Emilen from  
the monthly meeting held in Philadelphia  
for the northern district, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of the  
5<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup>. 1787, expressive of their unity and  
sympathy with him, having been drawn in gospel  
love to visit the meetings in these parts.

One Dated at Philadelphia held at the  
northern district by adjournment, the 1<sup>st</sup> of  
the 5<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup>. 1787, for our friend William Savory  
who having had a religious concern to attend this  
meeting, and others in our parts, having the  
sympathy and concurrence of friends therein,  
they being ministers in good esteem.

Our friend Tiddemon Hull attended this meet)  
with



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with a Copy of a Minute from the Creek monthly meet.<sup>g</sup>, informing of his prospect of attending this and a few adjacent meetings, which manifested their concurrence with his intended visit and unity with him therein.

Our friend Zebulon Hoxsies Copy of a minute dated at Saratoga 24<sup>th</sup> 5 M<sup>o</sup>. 1787, informing, he had it on his mind to travail in company with our friend Anna Hoag, she having a concern to pay a religious visit to friends in new England, he being an elder in unity.

Our friend Stephen Hoag attended this meet.<sup>g</sup> with the Copy of a Minute from the monthly meet.<sup>g</sup> held at Saratoga 24<sup>th</sup> of the 5 M<sup>o</sup>. 1787 all which Certificates & Copy's of Minutes were read to Satisfaction.

Received an Epistle from the yearly meeting of women friends, held at Westbury on Long Island 5 M<sup>o</sup>. 1788, containing suitable advice & counsel for our encouragement & perseverance in the way of well doing.

Mary Rodman, & Marye Mitchell, Sarah Hoxie & Anna Hacker, Mary Swinton, & Mary Willcox & Desire Langford, are appointed to join with a committee of men, who are to consider the case of Sarah Rogers Jan.<sup>o</sup> concerning her appeal from the confirmation of Sandwich quarterly meeting, confirming the judgement of Pembroke monthly meeting, when the service is



performed, to make report to this Meeting

Mary Robinson & Elizabeth Arnold are appointed to write an Essay to the yearly Meeting of Women friends at Long Island; and bring it to the adjournment on second day.

Abigail Lawton, and Abigail Arnold are appointed to prepare a few lines for our friend Anna Hoag and bring to the adjournment.

This Meeting adjourns to the 10<sup>th</sup> hour on second day next.

Second day the met by adjournment. The representatives being called are all present.

The following Epistles presented from the mens meeting.

One from the yearly meeting of men, held at Philadelphia 7<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup> 1786.

One from the yearly meeting of men, held at Westbury on Long Island 5 M<sup>o</sup> 1787, with a written one from the yearly meeting of men held in London 6 M<sup>o</sup> 1786, with the general printed Epistle, which afforded <sup>suitable</sup> many cautions & offered much weighty ~~advice~~ counsel, which was read to our comfort and edification.

Rec<sup>d</sup>. an Epistle from our friend Elizabeth Varney Dated at Dover 28<sup>th</sup> of the 5 M<sup>o</sup> 1787.



69

Encouraging the faithful & sincere hearted  
to hold on their way; and administred reproof  
to the careless and lukewarm, was read to our  
acceptance —

This meeting adjourns to the 14<sup>th</sup>  
hour this afternoon — Met by  
adjournment; The representatives being cal-  
led are all present, except Hepzibah Buffum  
who was prevented by sickness —

The committee appointed in the case of  
Sarah Rogers' appeal from the judgment of  
Sandwich quarterly meeting, make the fol-  
lowing report —

We the committee appointed to  
hear and consider the case of the appeal  
of Sarah Rogers Jun<sup>r</sup> from Sandwich quarterly  
meeting; having several times met & attended  
to the case, and heard what the parties had to offer,  
and having considered the circumstances, attending  
the same; are of opinion, that the judgement  
of the said Quarterly Meeting be approved, which  
we submit to the yearly meeting —

Mary Mitchell <sup>2<sup>d</sup></sup>	Daniel Anthony
Mary Lawton	Hosie Dow
Isire Langore	Clarke Rodman
Anna Hacker	Lathan Bree
Mary Wilboer	Thos. Arnold
Sarah Hoxie	George Arnold

Mary Rodman 2<sup>nd</sup>

Which is to the approbation of this meeting, and the  
said judgment confirmed accordingly —



70  
This Meeting adjourns to the 1<sup>st</sup> hour to morrow in the afternoon — Met by adjournment —  
The representatives being called are all present that attended the last sitting of this Meeting, except Susanna Cornell — The committee appointed to prepare essays of Epistles for the quarterly meeting, Philadelphia & Long Island yearly meeting, presented them to this Meeting, which were read, approved, and signed by the Clk for this year —

It is again recommended to the Quarterly meetings of Rhode Island & Salem respecting appointing and continuing a committee to visit the Monthly meetings and make report to next yearly meeting, how far they have proceeded on the service —

An endorsement on the certificate of our friend Anna Hoag was signed by the clerks —

And an endorsement on the copy of a Minute for her companion, Susanna Collins, signed by the Clerks — This meeting adjourns to the 10<sup>th</sup> hour to morrow —

13<sup>th</sup> Met by adjournment —  
The representatives being called are all present except one —

I read a certificate on behalf of our friend John Storer, directed to the monthly and quarterly meeting of Warrington old



old England, with one to the yearly meeting  
of Ministers and Elders, held in London —

Also one on behalf of our Friend Thomas Colley  
directed to the monthly meeting of — and  
to the Quarterly Meeting at York, old England  
and to the yearly meeting of ministers and elders  
in London —

One on behalf of our friend John Townshend  
directed to the monthly, quarterly & yearly  
Meeting of Ministers & Elders held in London,  
which were signed by the Clerks of each Meeting

The following advice is recommended to  
Sandwich quarterly Meeting —

We observe you have not informed us what  
progress you have made in appointing a com-  
mittee to visit the monthly meetings belonging  
to your quarterly Meeting — We recommend  
to you, after duly weighing it, you would inform  
the next Yearly meeting —

It is the united sense of this meeting, that  
the following alteration in the time of holding the  
two quarterly meetings of Sea brook, formerly Hamp-  
ton, be held the seventh day before the first day of  
the 1<sup>st</sup> M<sup>o</sup> And that at Dover the seventh day be-  
fore the 4<sup>th</sup> first day in the 1<sup>st</sup> M<sup>o</sup> which is agreed  
to in this meeting, and they are permitted to hold them  
accordingly —

his



This Meeting having been in some degree owned through the several meetings, with the presence of him who remains to be the Crown of all our religious Meetings; may the fresh seasons of heavenly regard raise new resolutions in every mind to give up with full purpose of heart to follow him in all his requirements, and with reverent thankfulness to return the praise to him that lives for ever

This meeting concludes and adjourns until next year, then with divine permission to meet again at this place, beginning at Portsmouth on 5<sup>th</sup> day before the second sixth day of the 6<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup>. agreeable to our Discipline

Signed in and on behalf of said Met.  
by } Mary Brown  
Clerk to the Meeting  
this year }



Friends 73

At a yearly Meeting of Women, held at  
a Report for Rhode Island the 13<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup>  
A. 1788.

Representatives present for Rhode Island  
Quarter are - Philadelphia Chalmer, Patience  
Brayton, Elizabeth Hott, Mary Lawton, Mary  
Willber, Sarah Howland -

For Salem Mabel Jenkins,  
Hannah Dow For Sandwich Quarter,  
Sarah Tabor, Mary Mitchell,  
Abigail Wing.

Mary Brown appointed Clerk - Sarah  
Robinson appointed to assist in the Business -  
Accounts brought up from each Quarter  
with Answers, which were read with the Queries,  
where we have to observe with sorrow the  
many deficiencies therein, by departing from our  
Christian Testimony; but yet we are comforted  
under a sense that there are a remnant in  
every Quarter honestly concerned to labour in  
the Lord's Vineyard, for the promotion of Truth  
and are endeavouring to keep up our wholesome  
discipline under the direction of best wisdom -

Alice Almy, Sarah Rodman Hannah Dow,  
Deborah Davis, Sarah Tabor and Amey Harriß  
are appointed to write to the quarterly meetings  
they making such remarks as appear ne-  
cessary - and also to communicate such advices  
as



as may arise in their minds after duly attending to the service —

This meeting received a solid and weighty communication by way of Epistle from the Yearly Meeting of Women held at Philadelphia the 9<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup>. which was read to our comfort and encouragement in the way of well-doing —

Amey Thurston, Mary Robinson, Mary Mitchell, Elizabeth Mott, Hebetabel Jenkins, Dorcas Earl & Mary Brown are appointed to draft an Essay to the Yearly Meeting of Women at Philadelphia —

We were also favoured with one from the yearly meeting of Women held at Long Island 5 M<sup>o</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> containing seasonable advices worthy our attention and practice —

The above named Committee are likewise appointed to write to the Yearly Meeting of Women at Long Island, which are to be brought to an adjournment of the meeting —

Certificate for our friend Samuel Emlyn from the monthly meeting held for the northern district by adjournment 13<sup>th</sup> of the 5 M<sup>o</sup> 1788, expressive of



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of their unity and concurrence in his attending this meeting, and a further clear manifestation of duty in these parts, was read to our satisfaction.

This meeting adjourns to the 10<sup>th</sup> hour to a Morrow.

Seventh day, <sup>11<sup>th</sup></sup> met by adjournment. The representatives again called are all present, except Philadelphia Chaloner, who we are informed was unwell.

The following Epistles handed from the mens meeting.

One from the yearly meeting held at Philadelphia 9<sup>th</sup> 1787.

One from the yearly meeting held at Long Island 5<sup>th</sup> 1788 — and all written one from the yerly meeting held in London, and the general printed Epistle. The reading of which was savory, and afforded suitable counsel and cautions agreeable to the present day & state of Society.

The mens meeting informing they have appointed a committee to consider of what may be proper to come before this meetg and propose our appointing a committee to join in



76  
in the same service, which has the appro-  
bation of this meeting. We accordingly  
appoint our friends Sarah Barney,  
& Mary Mitchell, Elizabeth Mott, Hannah  
Dow, Susanna Russell, Deborah Davis,  
& Hehetable Chase; they to report to this  
meeting when ready.

This meeting adjourns to the 10<sup>th</sup> hour  
on second day.

Second day 16<sup>th</sup> met by adjournment  
The representatives all present.

The Committee appointed to Write to the several  
quarterly meetings, presented the Epistles to  
this meeting; they being read & approved of  
are signed by the Clerk, directed to each  
quarterly meeting, with Transcripts of  
Philadelphia and Long Island Epistles.

The Committee appointed to Write Essay,  
of Epistles to the yearly meeting of Women  
at Philadelphia and Long Island, brought  
them to this meeting; being twice read, are  
approved of and signed by the Clerk, directed  
to each meeting.

This meeting concludes & adjourns to the  
same hour the mens meeting do.

Met according to the conclusion of the last  
sitting



Sitting of this meeting — The represent-  
atives being called are all present, which  
attended this morning, except Philadelphia  
Chaloner, who is prevented by indisposition.  
This meeting adjourns to the 3<sup>d</sup> hour  
to morrow —

Met by adjournment

The representatives being called are all pre-  
sent, except Elizabeth Mott, who is on a  
Committee, and Philadelphia Chaloner  
who remains unable to attend — Elizabeth  
Mott, now present —

The following alterations respecting  
holding Rhode Island & Sandwich quarterly  
meetings is agreed to by the mens meeting,  
being laid before this, received the approbation  
of this meeting —

It having been for divers years, much  
desired by this meeting, that a different ar-  
rangement of our quarterly meetings might  
take place, It is now agreed, that the monthly  
meetings of Dartmouth, . . . Acaxet & Swanzy  
be for one year sett off, and added to Sandwich  
Quarterly Meeting, and it is tenderly advised  
that they endeavour to unite in a brotherly  
labour together for the promotion of the cause  
of truth; that they meet and hold their meetings  
at



at the times and places as heretofore, except those in the 10<sup>th</sup> & 12 Months, which are to be held at the usual times, but instead of the usual places, that in the 10<sup>th</sup> M<sup>c</sup> is directed to be held at aponeganfett and that in the 12 M<sup>c</sup> at Bedford — and the further consideration of this subject is referred to next yearly meetg.

That Rhode Island quarter is held in the spring and summer as usual, in the fall at Portsmouth and in the winter at Providence at the usual time.

The Committee on general matters make report, which being accepted in the mens meeting & united with in this, is accepted & is as follows —

To the yearly Meeting now sitting

We your committee in general matters have attended to our appointment; Report, That we think it may be well to refer the matter respecting signing certificates for friends who travel abroad in the work of the ministry, to the <sup>consideration of</sup> next yearly meeting at Philadelphia and perhaps to that of new York, intimating our disposition to condescension in that case, and that it is probable we shall be willing for the sake



for sake of uniformity, to come into such  
method of signing as them yearly meeting  
shall agree upon, and that in the mean  
time our several monthly meetings be  
left to proceed in such cases discretionally  
as they may think best

We also think it may be best for some  
depository to be agreed upon by the yearly  
meeting, for the old papers, Books and  
Records not in immediate use, both be-  
longing to the yearly meeting, Select yearly  
meeting, and meeting for Sufferings

We have not gone through, but thus  
far report at present

Signed in and on behalf of the commit-  
tee of men & women, by.

Joe Scott.  
Marye Mitchell.  
Newport 14<sup>th</sup> of the  
6<sup>th</sup> mo. 1788.

I gave utter to the advice of last  
yearly meeting to Sandwich quarter, with  
respect to appointing a committee to visit the  
monthly meetings, which they was attentive  
to and informed this meeting, the matter  
was



80  
was under notice, and referred to the next  
Quarter for consideration.

This Meeting seems to be drawing  
towards a conclusion, and has with humble  
gratitude to acknowledge the continuance  
of divine favour, which has covered this our  
annual Assembly, and a renewed visitation  
seems to be extended to many, in a particu-  
lar manner to our youth, who may be so-  
lemnly entering into covenant with the Lord  
their maker, and those that wisely keep  
Covenant, will witness his preserving hand  
to be near, and his banner to be love.

It is agreed that Portsmouth first  
day meeting, at yearly meeting time be  
considered in future, as part of the yearly  
meeting, and as such to come under the  
notice of the Select yearly meeting.

This meeting concludes and adjourns  
until next year, then with permission to meet  
again at this place beginning at Portsmouth  
on 5<sup>th</sup> day before the second sixth day of the  
6<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup>. agreeable to our Discipline.

Signed in and on behalf of the Meeting  
by ————— Mary Brown

6<sup>th</sup> to the Meeting  
this year



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From our Yearly Meeting of Women friends  
held at Newport for New England from the  
13<sup>th</sup> of the 1<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1788. to the 17<sup>th</sup> of the same  
inclusive.

To the several quarterly meetings  
hereunto belonging

Beloved Sisters Our minds in this our  
assembly being impressed with an  
humbling concern for the promotion of truth,  
and that we may be individually engaged to live  
in obedience to the dictates thereof, are renewedly  
drawn to salute you in a measure of that love which  
has been extended to us from the alone helper, and  
sure support of his ~~prophets~~ depending children —

It is the one cement of the Fords family  
however varied their respective lots — and has  
enabled us to conduct in a good degree of harmony  
and concord in attending to the affairs of the  
Church presented to us at this time —

On reading the accounts transmitted  
to us in your answers to the Queries, we were  
comforted in believing there is a remnant truly  
concerned to come up in their ranks in righteousness;  
may the number of these be greatly increased,  
who with holy vigilance wait for the arising of life  
and



and the pointings of divine wisdom — that by a steady abiding under its precious influences they may be thoroughly sanctified for the great masters service — May the beloved youth for whom we are at this time ardently desirous, so attend to the teaching of this inward monitor mercifully vouchsafed; the sure director into all truth, that they may be kept from every snare, preserved from the pollutions of the world; and delight to associate with those whose conduct and conversation are ordered aright; rather than indulge in unprofitable acquaintance, and friendships, which have often laid the foundation of improper connexions in marriage with those not of our society — Israel formerly was directed to dwell alone, and we believe it equally useful in this our day — and as it becomes your encreasing care, it will prevent keeping company with such on that account which we sorrowfully observe in the answers to the 6<sup>th</sup> Query is the case with some in each quarter —

We have been favoured with the company of our dear friend Samuel Emilen from Philadelphia, whose gospel labours have been acceptable and edifying to us —

We herewith send transcripts of the Philadelphia & Long Island Epistles, containing affectionate & lively advice, which we desire may have their due effect — and remain in endearing love your sympathizing sisters —

Signed in & on behalf of said Meeting by —  
 Mary Brown  
 to the Meeting this year.



From our Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held  
at Newport, for New-England from the 13<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> mo to the 17<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive, 1788.

To the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends  
in Philadelphia

Dear beloved Sisters

In gospel love we salute and inform  
you, that we received your cordial & salutary  
Epistles at the reading of which, the hearts of a remnant  
were comforted, and their spirits refreshed, and made  
glad as at the salutation of Mary to Elizabeth in  
former days; and desires were raised that you & we  
may so dwell and abide in Christ the living Vine  
as to bring forth fruits to his praise, and be one another's  
joy in him; For without the holy influence of his  
Spirit we are sensible that we can do nothing that  
will tend to his honour, or to the edification of each  
other

We have humbly to acknowledge that  
we have been inned by the overshadowing  
wing of divine love and heavenly regard, still conti-  
nued to refresh the hungry and thirsty; so that our  
inward strength hath been renewed in the Lord, and  
we enabled to praise his holy name who alone is  
worthy; For from him cometh all our help, and  
to those who ask under a feeling sense of the need of  
his assistance, he is merciful to give

We have the satisfaction to inform you of the



continuance of a truly comfortable prospect of  
 our dear youth; some of whom by yielding obe-  
 dience to the gracious visitations of divine love,  
 appear likely to fill with usefulness & acceptance  
 the places of the elders, who have been removed  
 from works to rewards — May the shepherd  
 of Israel preserve them from every hurtful  
 thing, that there may be from age to age a  
 succession of faithful witnesses to the sufficiency  
 of that holy principle of light and grace  
 which our gracious Creator hath placed in  
 every mind —

We feel affectionately engaged that  
 the dear young friends among you may  
 be sensible of the superior advantages they  
 are favoured with beyond most others; that  
 a grateful consideration of these blessings may  
 tend to bow their minds in humility under the  
 refining hand, which will make of them vessels  
 of usefulness and honour in his house, and render  
 them a joy indeed to their tender parents, and as  
 props in the decline of life to those whose hearts  
 have often been exercised on their behalf? Be  
 persuaded dear young friends, to prize the favour  
 indulged to you, and pay the attention due to the  
 secret admonitions of truth: they are the reproofs  
 of instruction, the voice of divine wisdom which  
 leads



leads to life — And though in your submission to it; you may be exercised in things mortifying to your natural inclinations, yet suffer neither favour nor affection to bias you, nor contempt and derision to deter you, from the practice of those things which you are made sensible the Lord requires at your hands; but humbly confiding in him who has called you to virtue and glory, press forward towards the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus; and in his time you will be made to triumph over all your enemies, and know an establishment in righteousness and peace —

We have been favoured with the company of our beloved friend Samuel Emilen of Philadelphia, whose gospel labours have been truly comforting and refreshing to us —

We desire a continuance of these mutual Epistolary communications, as we believe they have a tendency to encourage in well-doing, and to build one another up in the most holy faith. In the fellowship of which, we affectionately salute you, and bid you dearly farewell —

Signed in your behalf of f. Meet. 9 by —

Mary Brown



From our Womens Yearly Meeting, held  
at Newport for New England from the 13<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> of  
the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive

1788.

To the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends  
at Westbury on Long Island.

Dear Friends

Under an humbling sense of  
a fresh extension of that love which first  
gathered us from the empty forms of vain  
profession, to be a peculiar people, and to bear  
the name of the Lord in a distinguishing manner,  
do we affectionately salute you, and gratefully  
acknowledge, that our annual assembly hath  
been measurably favoured with the counsels  
of the Shepherd of Israel, who hath had com-  
passion upon his flock, and caused the weary  
travelers to partake of that stream which  
refreshes and makes glad the whole Heritage of  
God. May these continued favours prove  
fresh incitements to our minds to step for-  
ward with holy vigilance and watchful  
care, in that humble self-denying path  
which our blessed Lord trod before us, that  
he may delight still more and more to visit  
us, and to shed the sanctifying influences of  
his



his spirit upon us, by which we may be redeemed from the world, and become a peculiar treasure unto him, and waymarks to anxious enquirers Zion ward - saying, in the persuasive language of holy example - Follow us as we follow Christ - But, dear friends, though our spirits have thus humbly participated with yours, in the gracious diffusion of divine regard, yet have we been baptized into suffering under a painful sense of the many deviations from duty, the great insensibility of divine condescension!

Oh may these careless ones be awakened before it be too late, to consider the fatal tendency of their supineness, and the awful importance of turning to the Lord, by sincere repentance, before the day of merciful visitation is over, on the things which belong to peace are hidden from their eyes.

We may inform you of the continuance of the comforting prospect amongst our dear youth, which is matter of solid rejoicing, for whose preservation and growth, some of us are, with the ability afforded frequently engaged.

We kindly accept your salutary advice respecting unnecessary conversation before and after meeting which evidently tends



tends to draw the mind from that inward retirement and watchfulness so necessary as a preparative to acceptable worship, and a guard from the various temptations & snares, which the unwearied enemy of our souls is laying to catch the unwary mind both in the youth as well as those of more advanced age

We have been favoured with the company of our beloved friend Samuel C. mlen of Philadelphia, whose gospel labours have been truly comforting and acceptable to us.

Signed in Gon behalf of said Meeting  
by

Mary Brown Atk.



89

At a Yearly Meeting of  
Women Friends held at Vemport for Rhode  
Island, the 12<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month 1789.

Representatives present are, for Rhode Island, Elizabeth Mott, Mary Sawten, Mary Brown and Ruth Shearman; Salem Quarter, Nehitable Jenkins, Anna Hacker, Hannah Fox and Lydia Winstere. Sandwich Quarter Elizabeth Barker, Elizabeth Wing, Abigail Rogers and Keziah Russell. Mary Brown appointed Clerk, Sarah Robinson appointed to assist in the business which may come before this meeting. Susannah Russell and Desire Langford being appointed to attend the yearly Meeting sent a few lines informing they were prevented by sickness. Mary Stecum being appointed to attend this meeting, a friend informed she was prevented through indisposition. An account with answers to the Queries were brought from each Quarterly Meeting and read in this, wherein we find that the meetings have all been kept up except two, which friends were prevented attending by the severity of the weather.

Notwithstanding the many deficiencies prevailing in society and departures from our Christian testimony, for which in days past many of our ancients suffered, yet we have good cause to believe there is a living remnant in each quarter who are labouring for the prosperity of truth, whose care and concern remain steadfast for good order and a right zeal to promote and keep up the Discipline in all its branches. Each quarterly meeting acknowledged the reception of our lost Epistles with the transcripts of Philadelphia and Long Island Epistles, which were to their comfort and encouragement.



Our beloved friend Rebecca Jones attended this Meeting with her certificate from the monthly meeting held in Philadelphia for the northern District, held by adjournment the 2<sup>d</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month 1789, expressing a concern to pay a religious visit to this meeting and to friends elsewhere as truth might open the way, having the sympathy and concurrence of Friends therein; likewise our friend Zachariah Harris, who produced a Certificate from the monthly meeting of Wilmington in New Castle county on Delaware, held the 13<sup>th</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> month 1789, manifesting that he had a concern to pay a religious visit to friends in these parts, and the concurring unity of his friends therein. A certificate from the monthly meeting of friends held at Wrights Town in Bucks County Pennsylvania by adjournment, the 20<sup>th</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> month 1789, for our friend John Simpson expressive of his concern to visit this meeting and friends in New England, he having the concurrence and near sympathy of his friends therein. A few lines for our friend Robert Johnson, who felt his mind given up to accompany our friend Zachariah Harris on his religious visit, from the monthly meeting of Wilmington New Castle County on Delaware, held the 13<sup>th</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> m<sup>o</sup> 1789. Also a certificate for our friend Benjamin North from Purchase monthly meeting held at Harraroneck in West Chester County and State of New York the 9<sup>th</sup> of the 4<sup>th</sup> month 1789, acquainting us that he has had for a considerable time a concern to pay a religious visit to friends in these parts, which met the <sup>unity and</sup> concurrence of Friends. Likewise a copy of a minute from the monthly meeting held at Purchase the 9<sup>th</sup> of the 4<sup>th</sup> month 1789, for our friend James Mott, expressing his freedom to accompany our friend Benjamin North in his religious visit. And a Certificate for our friend George Martin from Concord monthly meeting, held in the 5<sup>th</sup> month 1789, expressing his prospect of attending Long Island and this yearly Meeting, he having the full unity of his friends therein: which were all read to our satisfaction.

Elizabeth Varney, Anna Harker, Alice Amy, Sarah Redman and Hannah Low are appointed to prepare Epistles to the quarterly meetings and bring them



to the adjournment, and Amy Thurston, Lydia Hin- 91  
ston, Mary Brown, Sarah Borney, Mary Robinson, Amy  
Harris and Elizabeth Rodman are appointed to prepare  
epistles to the yearly. Meetings of Women Friends of Phi-  
ladelphia and Long Island and bring to the adjournment.  
An Epistle from the yearly. Meeting of women friends  
held in Philadelphia from the 29<sup>th</sup> of the 9<sup>th</sup> month to  
the 11<sup>th</sup> of the 10<sup>th</sup> month inclusive 1788 was read, which was  
comfortable and encouraging to the minds of some present,  
particularly that Paragraph addressed to our youth for  
their steady perseverance and establishment in the Truth.  
Likewise a salutary one from the yearly. Meeting of  
women friends held on Long Island the 30<sup>th</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> m<sup>o</sup>.  
1789 to the 11<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month, affording seasonable ad-  
vice to the varied states of the Church and Family to  
come up in the faithful discharge of every known Duty.  
This meeting adjourns to the 10<sup>th</sup> Hour tomorrow.

Seventh day the 13<sup>th</sup> met by adjournment, the repre-  
sentatives being called are all present who attended yes-  
terday. A written and printed Epistle from the year-  
ly. Meeting of men friends held in London by adjourn-  
ments, from the 12<sup>th</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> month 1788 to the 19<sup>th</sup> of the  
same inclusive, were read, containing weighty and suitable  
counsel agreeable to the present Day. This meeting adjourns  
to the same hour the men adjourn to on second Day.

Second day the 15<sup>th</sup>, met by adjournment, the repre-  
sentatives being called are all present who have attend-  
ed this meeting. This meeting adjourns to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour  
this afternoon. Met by adjournment, the Representatives  
being called, are all present. A testimony was read con-  
cerning our esteemed friend Joseph. Mitchell deceased; from  
the monthly meeting of friends held at Vineport for  
Rhode Island the 29<sup>th</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> month 1788: which was  
approved, he having a concern on his mind to proceed on  
a religious visit to friends in Pennsylvania, and having  
our Certificate for that purpose; went from here in the 7<sup>th</sup>  
month, in order to proceed therein, after visiting on Long  
Island, New York, some parts of the Jerseys and several  
meetings in Pennsylvania, to the satisfaction of friends as ap-  
pears by their Certificate. In the latter part of the eighth  
month, he was taken ill of a fever, yet continued in the service  
of



92 of his religious visit until the 15<sup>th</sup> of the 9<sup>th</sup> month, when his disorder had so far prevailed as to render him unable to proceed any longer in that service and increasing upon him, proved the means of his dissolution. He died at the House of our friend Thomas Smith in Buckingham in the County of Bucks the 27<sup>th</sup> of the 9<sup>th</sup> month, and was interred the 28<sup>th</sup> of the same, in friends Burying ground in Buckingham, as appears by a testimony of friends at their quarterly meeting held in Middletown in the above County in Pennsylvania the 30<sup>th</sup> of the 11<sup>th</sup> month 1786. directed to the above mentioned monthly meeting. "We may well write blessed are the Dead who die in the Lord." In endorsement on the Certificate in behalf of our friend Rebecca Jones, was read and signed by the Clerks of both meetings. The Committee appointed to prepare Epistles to the Yearly Meetings of Women Friends at Philadelphia and Long Island, presented them to this adjournment, also Epistles to the quarterly meetings which were read, approved and signed by the Clerk. Those for the quarterly meetings are to be forwarded by their representatives, with transcripts of Philadelphia and Long Island Epistles. This meeting adjourns to the 7<sup>th</sup> Hour tomorrow morning.

Met by adjournment, the Representatives being called are all present who have hitherto attended. The men's meeting inform that they think it ~~best~~ appears best that Portsmouth and second monthly meetings be set off to Sandwich Quarter, and Swanzen monthly meeting remain to Rhode Island Quarter which is approved.

The proposal of Rhode Island quarterly meeting respecting an alteration of holding that Quarter is referred to them to reconsider, and if they should think an alteration necessary, to propose the same to the next Yearly meeting. Rhode Island and Sandwich quarterly meetings are to be held at the times and places as directed last year. Concluded that our meeting next year be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> day at Portsmouth and on 6<sup>th</sup> Day at Newport at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, the meeting for business at the 3<sup>rd</sup> hour and on first Day at the 10<sup>th</sup> hour in the morning & in the afternoon.

We have gratefully to acknowledge divine condiscussion in evening the several sittings of this meeting, wherein



we believe divers have been reached too and their minds 93  
humbled under the influence of his paternal care and con-  
tinued visitation, which seems graciously extended to our  
youth and under the solemnity of which, adjourn and con-  
clude to meet again at this place next year, if the Lord permit.

Signed in and by direction of said meeting by

Mary Brown Clerk this year.

From our yearly Meeting of Women  
Friends held at Rhode Island for New Eng-  
land, from the 12<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month 1789 to the 16<sup>th</sup> of  
the same inclusive,

To the several Quarterly Meetings  
hereto belonging.

Dear Sisters,

Under a renewed sense of the  
continuance of divine regard, we have at this time af-  
fectionately to salute you in the language of the inspired  
apostle, "May Grace, Mercy and Peace be with you." Is  
this hearty wish wishing for the good of Individuals and  
prosperity of the Church at large, can only be experienced  
under the influence of his Holy spirit who is our head  
and high Priest. Let us wait to feel it and be thankful  
under its operation, that we are thus <sup>for</sup> separated from the  
spirit of contention and disorder, to which human na-  
ture is subject if inattentive to the inspiring voice of  
that Wisdom, which is profitable to direct.

We find by the answers to the Queries there is a living  
remnant who are engaged for the cause of truth, whom  
we feel our minds nearly united to, and engaged with on  
account of the many complaints brought up to this meet-  
ing, which has been exercising and in particular, a slack-  
ness in the attendance of midweek meetings, for where  
there is a neglect in this, there is a manifest deviation; and  
weakness and poverty will ensue, and for their restoration,  
we ardently implore the God and Father of all <sup>our</sup> mercies, that  
he will be pleased to arise, and not only shake the earth



94. but the Heavens also, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain, and Zion may arise, shake herself from the Dust and put on her beautiful garments, and become the praise of the whole earth. And dear friends let none be discouraged because of the trials that may attend them, and the difficulties that sometimes rise high in their view, but turn the eye of your minds unto that Power that is able to remove mountains and the little hills melt at his presence. It has been a satisfaction to our minds to observe in this meeting, that some of our beloved Youth are in a good measure conformed to the plain appearance in dress and adornment which the truth leads its faithful followers into: may the number be increased who are made willing to take up the cross and be obedient in their Day, coming more and more out of the foolish fashions of the World, which giving way to, opens a door for that evil practice of keeping company on account of marriage with those not of our society, which some have done to their own trouble and the pain of their friends. We earnestly desire your preservation therefrom, and that you may live near the truth, that is able and will preserve you if you are obedient to the dictates thereof.

We have been favoured with the edifying company of our beloved friends Rebecca Jones, Zachariah Harris, John Simpson, George A. Martin and Benjamin Worth, from the Western Yearly Meetings, whose gospel labours, have been much directed to the youth.

May they be blessed to the good of all who have been partakers, and the praise redound to the honour of the great master who still graciously condescends to put forth his sheep and geese before them. Our meetings have been attended with an humbling solemnity and our affairs conducted in condescension and love, wherein we tenderly bid you farewell.

Signed in and on behalf of said meeting by

Mary Brown Clerk this year.

P.S. A concern hath been raised in this meeting that our beloved youth may be careful to keep their affections from being entangled by such as are nearer of



kin, than our discipline approves of their entering in-<sup>95</sup>  
to marriage with, and we apprehend it would be of use if  
the paragraph on this head in the 6th<sup>th</sup> page of the Book  
of discipline was at suitable times to be read in the sev-  
eral preparative meetings, that being received it may help  
to strengthen the minds of the youth and others to guard  
against giving way to a connection, that would break  
the unity with the body.

From our yearly . Meeting of Women Friends  
held on Rhode Island for . New England, by ad-  
journments, from the 12<sup>th</sup> of the 1<sup>st</sup> month 1789. to the  
16<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive.

To the yearly . Meeting of Women Friends to  
be held in Philadelphia for Pennsylvania.

Beloved Sisters,

We feel our minds covered with a  
degree of reverent gratitude to the author and fountain  
of all good, that he has condescended to own our solemn  
assembly at this season, and enabled us to transact the  
weighty affairs of the Church with love and unanimity.  
To the same blessed original we thankfully ascribe the  
influence of that uniting Charity, in which we at this  
time affectionately salute you and inform that your sal-  
utary Epistle has been read amongst us, we believe to the  
comfort and consolation of many minds, and living de-  
sires have been raised that in all our communications, as  
well as in every branch of christian discipline we may be  
renewedly concerned to witness that holy unction which  
will preserve us fresh and green, make our epistolary in-  
tercourse a means of our mutual furtherance in the way  
of peace and salvation, and cause us to become more and  
more one another's joy in the Lord. Thus dear Sisters,  
have the spirits of a living remnant been engaged, and  
in the entertainment of gospel Love, fervent desires have ar-  
isen to the Father that he would be graciously pleased to  
continue the visitations of divine Love to the dear youth,  
that they may become enamoured of the Beauty of holi-  
ness, and witness an entire dedication of heart to him who  
has in mercy called them to virtue and glory: that Zion  
may be cleansed from every defilement, restored to her former



96 lustre, and the succeeding generation be enabled to bear the ark of the testimony of the Lord with holy stability.

We feel not a disposition to communicate much at this time, but may add that we have been favoured with a seasonable visit from our beloved sister Rebecca Jones of Philadelphia and divers other Friends from the adjacent yearly Meetings, whose company and gospel labours have been truly precious to us: may the praise of all ascend to him who thus inclines his servants in love to visit the various parts of his Vineyard, and labour to build one another up in the most holy faith.

With desires that the planting and watering of the disciples may be blessed with increase by the master, to the honour of his own name; we tenderly salute you and remain your affectionate Sisters

Signed in and on behalf of the meeting by

Mary Brown Clerk this year.

From our Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held on Rhode Island from the 19<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month 1789 to the 16<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive

To the Yearly Meeting of women friends to be held at Westbury on Long Island.

Beloved Friends

Under an humbling sense of the extendings of divine regard in permitting us once more to meet together to transact the weighty affairs of the society, that have come before us, do we at this time salute you, and may inform that through the assistance of the spirit of truth we have been favoured to conduct them in harmony and condescension. Your last very acceptable Epistle was read to our satisfaction, and we feelingly unite with you in desires that our epistolary correspondence may have the happy effect of stirring up the pure mind, that thereby a victory over every selfish desire may be more and more obtained, and by a steady adherence to the blessed principle feel our minds weaned from the transitory enjoyments that so incidently <sup>obscure</sup> the good that is offered by an all wise providence, whose guardian care is constantly extended to his dependant children, and who



long waits to be gracious unto those who have stray- 97  
ed from the paths of purity and peace. We believe an  
humbling visitation has been renewedly experienced by  
some in this meeting and we are truly desirous there may  
be a closing in and yielding to it with full purpose of  
heart, under an awful consideration of the uncertainty  
of time and the great necessity of a right improvement  
of it to receive the answer of will done.

By accounts from our several quarterly meetings  
we find there are some concerned that the discipline  
may be honestly supported; but we have been painfully  
exercised in observing the great want there is of faithful  
standard Bearer, and feel our minds engaged for the  
advancement of the beloved youth, that they may come  
forward in the line of divine appointment, and by guid-  
ing obedience to the manifestations of truth, become  
qualified for the important concerns of the Church, up-  
on whose shoulders it must ere long devolve, and may  
those of more advanced age be favoured to accept with  
propriety this pathetic Language, "follow us as we fol-  
low Christ." We have had the company of our beloved  
Friends Rebecca Jones, Zachariah Burd, John Simp-  
son and George Martin from Pennsylvania, and sev-  
eral <sup>visitors</sup> from your yearly meeting, who have been concerned  
in extensive gospel labours amongst us, greatly to our  
satisfaction, and as we all have from season to season been  
favoured to receive counsel and caution, both immedi-  
ately and instrumentally, may we gratefully accept the  
offer of divine love, believing that the time is fully come  
and now is the acceptable day of salvation, and if there  
is a submitting our wills to his holy will, "judges will be  
raised as at the first and counsellors as at the beginning."

In sisterly affection we again salute you and bid you  
farewell.

Signed in and on behalf of the said meeting by

Mary Brown Clerk this year.



# A yearly Meeting of Women Friends held at Newport for New England the 11<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month 1790.

The representatives called and present, are, for Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting Elizabeth Mott, Sarah Hoxie, Frelove Harris and Sarah Redman. For Salem, Nehitable Jenkins, Anna Hacker & Anna Purinton; for Sandwich, Mary Lake, Nehitable Chace, and Elizabeth Swift. Amy Thurston being indisposed did not attend this Meeting, Elizabeth Kitch, Mary Green and Abigail White sent a few lines, informing the reason of their absence, which was satisfactory.

Mary Brown appointed clerk and Sarah Robinson to assist her in such business as may come before the meeting. Our friend Elizabeth Drinker attended this meeting with her Certificate from the monthly meeting held in Philadelphia the 30<sup>th</sup> of the 4<sup>th</sup> month 1790. expressive of a concern to pay a religious Visit to friends in these parts, she having the tender sympathy and unity of friends therein: also one for our friend Hannah Yerkes from the monthly meeting in Philadelphia for the northern district held the 25<sup>th</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> month 1790. she having felt a religious engagement to accompany our friend Elizabeth Drinker in her visit to friends in New England, and obtaining the approbation and full concurrence of friends therein, she being an Elder in good esteem: which were read to our satisfaction.

Accounts were received from each Quarter with answers to the Queries, which were read in this meeting acknowledging the reception of the Epistle from the last yearly Meeting, with transcripts of Philadelphia and Long Island Epistles. We find all our meetings have been kept up since our last accounts, except one which was prevented by the Weather, we were also informed that the business has been conducted in a degree of love and condescension, although it may appear to be a low time in society, yet we are comforted under a sense that there is a living remnant concerned to labour for the saving health of all, endeavouring to promote the testimony of



truth in its several Branches and are engaged that<sup>99</sup>  
the discipline may be kept up and maintained in a  
spirit of meekness. Rhode Island quarterly meeting  
informs they have appointed Ruth Shearman and  
Freelove Harris to the station of Elders. The advice of  
last yearly Meeting respecting a paragraph in the 1<sup>th</sup>  
page of the Book of discipline to be read in the several  
preparative meetings has been in some measure com-  
plied with, and believe it may be useful to revive and  
continue the reading it as occasion requires the ensu-  
ing year.

An epistle from the yearly Meeting  
of women friends in Philadelphia dated the 28<sup>th</sup> of the  
9<sup>th</sup> month to the 3<sup>d</sup> of the 10<sup>th</sup> month 1789 and one from  
the yearly Meeting of Women Friends held at Westbury  
on Long Island from the 27<sup>th</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> month 1790 to the  
3<sup>d</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month which were read to our comfort and  
refreshment.

Sarah Redman, Dorcas Earl, Anna  
Henderson, Mary Robinson, Eliza Elmy, Lydia Brown,  
Mary Brown, Nehitable Jenkins and Elizabeth Mott  
are to take the accounts with the answers under con-  
sideration and make such remarks and communi-  
cate such advices as may appear necessary; likewise  
to write to our friends at Philadelphia and Long  
Island and bring them to the adjournment. This meet-  
ing adjourns to the 11<sup>th</sup> hour tomorrow.

Met by adjournment: the Representatives being  
called are all present who attended yesterday. Rhode  
Island quarterly meeting having desired some atten-  
tion in the time and place of holding two of their  
meetings: agreeable to their request, it is concluded  
that for one year, the meeting which has been usually  
held at Smithfield upper meeting house in the 7<sup>th</sup> mo,  
be held at Portsmouth the 5<sup>th</sup> Day before the 2<sup>d</sup> sixth day  
in the 8<sup>th</sup> month, and that held at Portsmouth in the  
10<sup>th</sup> month, be held at Smithfield upper meeting house  
at the same time and the clerk is directed to forward  
a copy of this minute to each monthly meeting for their  
government. Sandwich quarterly meeting having request-  
ed that their meeting in the 10<sup>th</sup> month may be held one  
day earlier than heretofore; it is accordingly concluded  
that said meeting be held in future the first 6<sup>th</sup> Day in



100 the 10<sup>th</sup> month. Our friend Joshua Brown attended this meeting and produced a certificate from Nottingham monthly meeting Pennsylvania the 30<sup>th</sup> of the first month, with a concurrence of London Grove quarterly meeting the 16<sup>th</sup> of the 2<sup>d</sup> month last expressing their unity with him as a minister and with his concern to make a religious Visit to friends in New York and New England. Likewise his companion Jacob Haull attended this meeting with a certificate from Haverford, monthly meeting Pennsylvania dated the 14<sup>th</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> month last. also our friend Benjamin Swett who produced a certificate from Haddonfield monthly meeting New Jersey, dated the 10<sup>th</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> month last, with the concurrence of Gloucester and Salem quarterly meeting dated the 17<sup>th</sup> of the same, expressive of their unity with him as a minister and with his religious Visit concern to visit friends in New England. Also our friend Daniel Oller attended our meeting with a certificate from Philadelphia, monthly meeting for the southern district held the 28<sup>th</sup> of the 4<sup>th</sup> month likewise one from the Quarterly Meeting held at Philadelphia the 3<sup>d</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> month expressive of their unity with his ministry and concurrence with <sup>his</sup> concern to make a religious Visit to friends in New York and New England. also his companion John Norton attended this meeting with a certificate from said meeting held the 26<sup>th</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> month. Likewise our friend Hugh Judge attended this meeting and produced a certificate from Wilmington monthly meeting dated the 13<sup>th</sup> of the 1<sup>st</sup> mo and concurred <sup>with</sup> at concord quarterly meeting the 8<sup>th</sup> of the 2<sup>d</sup> mo. Also our friend Solomon Underhill attended this meeting with a copy of a minute of Westbury monthly meeting dated the 19<sup>th</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> month, expressing their unity with his <sup>ministry</sup> concern to attend this meeting.

This meeting adjourns to the 4<sup>th</sup> hour this afternoon. Seventh day afternoon met by adjournment, the Representatives being called are all present who attended in the morning. This meeting adjourns to the 11<sup>th</sup> on second day. Second day met by adjournment the Representatives again called are all present.



101  
Amy Thurston attends this Meeting. The committee appointed to prepare an Epistle for the several quarterly meetings and for the yearly Meeting of Women at Philadelphia, presented them which were read, approved and signed by the Clerk for this year and directed to each quarter, with transcripts of Philadelphia and Long Island Epistles. This meeting adjourns to the 5<sup>th</sup> Hour this afternoon.

Second day afternoon, met by adjournment, the Representatives being called are all present. The Epistles handed from the men's meeting, one from the yearly Meeting of men friends held in Philadelphia in the 9<sup>th</sup> month <sup>1789</sup>, one from Long Island in the 5<sup>th</sup> month 1790, and the written and general printed Epistle from the yearly Meeting held in London in the 6<sup>th</sup> month 1789, affording very seasonable counsels and salutary advice, worthy our solid consideration. It is agreed by both men and women's meeting, that Certificates granted to ministering Friends, whose concern may extend out of the limits of our yearly meeting, may be best to be signed at large in the monthly meeting by Friends in their freedom both men & women. This meeting adjourns to the 2<sup>d</sup> Hour tomorrow.

Third day afternoon, met by adjournment, the Representatives being called are all present, except Abigail Chace who sent a few lines informing the reason of her absence. Endowments were signed on behalf of our Friends Elizabeth Drinker and Hannah Yerkes by the Clerk of this and the men's meeting.

Testimony was read concerning our Friend Susannah Comstock deceased, from the monthly meeting of Smithfield, which was satisfactory. Concluded that our meeting next year be held on 5<sup>th</sup> Day of Portsmouth, and on 6<sup>th</sup> day at Newport at the 11<sup>th</sup> Hour, the meeting for Business at the 3<sup>th</sup> Hour in the afternoon, and on first day also in the morning and 2 in the afternoon.

We have here humbly to acknowledge that this meeting has in some measure been owned by the great Shepherd of Israel who is still waiting to be gracious to his Children and People & under a sense thereof we adjourn & conclude to meet again at this place if the Lord permit. Signed in Ten behalf of our meeting by Mary Brown Clerk this year.



From our yearly Meeting of women friends held at Newport on Rhode Island, for New England from the 11<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month to the 15<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1796.

To the yearly Meeting of women friends to be held in Philadelphia.

Dear beloved Sisters,

Our minds are measurably covered with that love which is the one cement of the family, however varied their abodes and remote their outward situations; and under its precious influence we tenderly salute you, and inform that we have been favoured to meet at this our annual assembly, which has been comforted with an evidence that the shepherd of Israel is still caring for his flock, leading the humble and contrite to the green pastures of life, and taking the Lambs into his arms. And though we have severely experienced that weakness and insufficiency is ours; yet have we had cause humbly to acknowledge that "unto him belongeth strength." Under this persuasion we are engaged, not only to sympathize with the exercised among you for Zion's sake, but to encourage them to put their trust in him who has promised that for the sighing of the Poor and needy, he will arise. And though in low lying seasons, such as the present has been, we may be ready to sink under the feeling of our infirmities, the smallness of the number engaged for the cause, and the prospect of the greatness of the work, one to adopt the discouraging apprehension formerly witnessed by an exercised servant, "I looked on, there was none to help, I wondered that there was none to uphold" yet, dear friends let us call to mind, that in the Almighty is everlasting strength; that it was not by numbers the armies of Israel triumphed over their enemies, but endued with his power, & under the influence of his Spirit, "a little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation."



May these continued evidences of divine con-  
ascension, manifested to the humble followers of Christ,  
induce multitudes to take his yoke upon them and be-  
come obedient to the teachings of his spirit, that they  
may grow from strength to strength, and in his own  
time, become testimony bearers to others of the efficacy of  
divine grace, and its all sufficiency to purify from every  
pollution, and to prepare a people zealous of good Works.  
The beloved youth with us and you are affectionately  
included in these desires; may the fading beauty of  
this world become more and more stained in their view,  
and they renewedly convinced that it can afford no sub-  
stantial enjoyment; and that an Inheritance in the blis-  
sed Truth, a sense of the favour of the Lord, and that peace  
which passeth the human understanding, is an ample  
compensation and a rich reward for the renunciation  
of its friendships, honours, pleasures and applause.

We observe with satisfaction your tender sym-  
pathy for the many disadvantages both spiritual and  
temporal, that the poor oppressed Africans are labour-  
ing under, and feel a correspondent desire, that they  
may continue the objects of our compassionate attention,  
and our minds become still more engaged to example  
and assist them in a religious life.

Your affectionate and salutary epistle was read  
among us to our comfort and refreshment, and a num-  
ber were made thankful to the author of all good for  
the correspondence.

Our beloved friends Elizabeth Pincher &  
her companion Hannah Yeckes with several other val-  
uable friends from your yearly Meeting, have attended  
ours, whose company and gospel labours, though close &  
searching to the rebellious and disobedient, have been edi-  
fying and comfortable to the humble seeking travellers  
 Zion ward.

With a salutation of endeared love we bid you  
affectionately farewell, and are your friends and sisters  
in the Truth.

Signed in and on behalf of our yearly Meeting by  
Mary Brown Clerk this year.



From our yearly . Meeting of women friends held at . Linport for . LinEngland from the 11<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month 1790 to the 15<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive

To the next yearly . Meeting of women friends held at Westbury on Long Island.

Dear Sisters,

Our minds on the reading your weighty acceptable epistle were drawn under the Influence of that love wherein is unity and fellowship to salute you, desiring the continuance of our correspondence may be to mutual edification and comfort, and though the present time with us appears low and the minds of a remnant have been baptized into deep suffering: we have abundant cause to have confidence in him who does all things in unerring wisdom, whose tender mercies are over all his Works: and believing that his dispensations are best for his children endeavour after that resignation to his will which becomes his followers in this situation, though we may often have to mourn with the afflicted, yet we have at times to partake of the Cup of rejoicing and join in living thanksgiving and praise to his ever worthy name. We fervently unite with you our beloved Sisters in desiring the encouragement, growth and firm establishment of the honestly devoted in Heart, and that their number may be abundantly increased both among the advanced in life and the dearly beloved youth: may they be attentive to the voice of the divine Shepherd, who leads his followers in the way to peace, and condescends to do great and marvellous things for the strength and help of his humbled seeking ones, in the display of his loving kindness, making it evident that he wills not the loss of any, but graciously grants each individual ability to obey his call. "Come unto me all ye ends of the earth and be ye saved" may we therefore give up with full purpose of Heart and alacrity of mind to follow his righteous dictates, and open unto him the door of our Hearts before his Head is wet as with the Dew, and his locks with the drops of the night



using all diligence to make our calling and election <sup>105</sup>  
sure. We have been favoured with the acceptable com-  
pany of our beloved friends Elizabeth Drinker and  
Hannah Yerkes her companion, from Philadelphia, with  
divers Brethren, whose gospel labours have been instruc-  
tive and edifying, and we hope will tend to the lasting  
improving of many; strengthening the resolution of  
those who are quickened to see their various Duties;  
that they may become able to rear a standard against  
the enemy of their Peace, and in earnest adopt the re-  
solution of good Joshua formerly, "As for me and my  
House we will serve the Lord." We may inform that  
through the several sittings of our meetings, Love and  
Harmony have prevailed; as by accounts received we  
find has been the case in the later meetings, constitut-  
ing this, for which we are, <sup>gratified</sup> unfeignedly, accompanied  
some minds, who are sensible it is not of ourselves, but  
proceeds from the condiscension of the great author of  
Love. We desiring all our religious undertakings may  
be in abasedness & fear before him; we again tenderly  
salute you and bid you farewell.

Signed in and on behalf of said meeting by

Mary Brown clerk to the meeting <sup>year.</sup> this,

From our Yearly Meeting of Women  
Friends held at Newport for New England, from the 11<sup>th</sup>  
of the 6<sup>th</sup> month to the 15<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1790.

To the several Quarterly Meetings hereunto  
belonging.

Dear friends & Sisters,

Our minds are drawn  
by the influence of divine regard affectionately to salute  
you, some of us being often engaged in near sympathy  
with those who have to travel as in the Desert, who have  
frequently to mourn on the account of those who depart  
from that strait and narrow way which is cast up for the  
run-



106 ransomed and redeemed to walk in. O may they be encouraged to press forward through the crowd of encumbering things, and not be dismayed at the backslidings of others; considering we must all be accountable each for ourselves. Many minds have been exercised on account of the dear Centre, that they may devote the prime of their Days to the service of their Creator, as an early sacrifice is the most acceptable: and that mothers may be rightly engaged for the good of those committed to their trust, and duly sensible of the importance of it.

We likewise earnestly recommend that friends be concerned to promote love and unity, which ever was the distinguishing mark of true discipleship.

This meeting has not been quite so large as at some times, but measurably furnished in the several sittings of it, with the earnings of Divine regard, & the company of several Friends from the yearly Meeting of Philadelphia; whose gospel Labours among us have been truly acceptable to us.

We received epistles from the yearly Meetings of Philadelphia and Long Island, Copies of which we herewith transmit to you, recommending the salutary advices therein contained to your serious attention.

The advice of the last yearly meeting that the paragraph in the 6th page of the Book of Discipline, respecting keeping company on account of marriage with those too near of kin, should be read in the several preparative meetings, we believe may be useful to revive and continue the reading of it as occasion may require, the ensuing year.

Signed in &c on behalf of said meeting by

( Mary Brown Clerk this year.



A yearly Meeting of women friends held at Newport for New England the 10<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month 1791.

Met according to adjournment of last year; after a time of silent waiting some just remarks were made and pertinent advice given agreeable to the state of the meeting. We are informed by accounts from the Quarterly Meetings that the friends appointed to attend this meeting are; for Rhode Island quarter, Ruth Sherman, Hannah Knott, Sarah Herie, Elizabeth Thurston, Anna Green and Hepzibah Buffum; Salem Quarter, Sarah Beady, Abigail Jenkins, Hannah Cox, Thankful Huxey, Abigail Purington and Lucia Winslow; Sandwich Quarter, Mercy Hecum and Deborah Huxey who being called are all present.

Mary Brown is appointed clerk for the present year and Sarah Rodman assistant clerk. Our esteemed Friends Mary Ridgenay and Jane Watson from Ireland attended this meeting and presented their certificates, the former from Mount Pelic monthly meeting the 16<sup>th</sup> of the 11<sup>th</sup> month, and the latter from Edinbury monthly meeting the 19<sup>th</sup> of the same 1789: expressing of their near unity with their gospel Ministry and affectionate sympathy with them in their concern to visit friends in America, likewise concurring certificates for each of them from the Quarterly Meeting of Leinster province held in Dublin the 1<sup>st</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> month and from the Half years Meeting of Ministers and Elders for Ireland held in Dublin the 2<sup>nd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> day of the same month 1789: which were read to our sole satisfaction, and our sisterly sympathy is engaged toward them. Our esteemed Friend Sarah Lundy attended this meeting and produced a certificate from Kingwood monthly meeting held the 16<sup>th</sup> of the 11<sup>th</sup> month 1790, expressing their approbation of her ministry and unity with her concern to pay a religious visit to friends in Nova Scotia and New England, and a certificate of communion from Shrewsbury and Rahway the 10<sup>th</sup> month 15<sup>th</sup> 1790. Likewise our esteemed friend Elizabeth



Martin, her companion, with a minute from Rahway and Plainfield monthly meeting held the 19<sup>th</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> month last, expressing their unity with her as an Elder and concurrence in her accompanying our said friend. Some lively testimonies having been born in this <sup>meeting</sup>, we adjourn to the eleventh hour tomorrow. Seventh day the 11<sup>th</sup>; met by adjournment, after a time of solid waiting the representatives were again called and answered to their names. We received an Epistle from the yearly Meeting of Women friends held in Philadelphia from the 27<sup>th</sup> of the 4<sup>th</sup> month to the 2<sup>d</sup> of the 10<sup>th</sup> month 1790: and one from the yearly Meeting held at Westbury on Long Island from the 28<sup>th</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> month to the 2<sup>d</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month 1791: which were read to our comfort and edification. We appoint our friends Elizabeth Rodman, Lydia Winslow, Mary Robinson, Lydia Macy, Alice, Emily, Hannah Rodman, Mary Brown and Deborah Kupper to write to the yearly Meetings of Women friends at Philadelphia and Long Island, and to take into consideration the answers to the Queries, draw a summary therefrom and make such remarks as appear to them useful, and communicate such advices as may open on their minds and particularly to revive to the several quarterly meetings, the concern that has spread in this meeting, respecting the necessary care of the Poor; and being careful to keep friends families at home on first day evenings, and endeavour solidly to collect them together to wait on the Lord that strength may be renewed to qualify for every good Word and Work: and at such solid opportunities because the scriptures to be read therein. This meeting adjourns to the 11<sup>th</sup> hour on second day, under the grateful sense of the continuance of Holy Help.

Second Day met by adjournment: after a time of solid waiting and some saccurry communications, the representatives were called and answered to their names. Epistles from the yearly Meetings of London, Philadelphia and Westbury were handed from the men's meeting and read in this, and our spirits were refreshed by the suitable and lively advices, and



remarks therein being well adapted to the state of 109  
Society. By them we find our Testimony respecting spi-  
rituous Liquors is advanced, and a concern to promote  
the education of youth: may our minds be invested  
with the same laudable concern, is our desire.

The Committee reported a summary state of the  
society, as follows, from the accounts brought from  
each Quarter and read in this meeting. All our re-  
ligious meetings are duly kept up, except some few  
prevented, by the severity of the Weather, but many are  
neglectful in attending, particularly on Weekdays. Some  
unbecoming behaviour appears in some meetings, par-  
ticularly that of sleeping. Love and unity is in a good  
degree maintained, but not in so general a manner as  
becometh the followers of Christ; forbearing and back-  
biting not enough discouraged. There appears a con-  
siderable deficiency in support of our testimony res-  
pecting plainness and the education of Children, in  
each meeting. Our testimony against the use of spi-  
rituous Liquors, Priests Wages and Slavery appears to be  
pretty well preserved. Some care is taken for the relief of  
the necessitous, but more is wanting respecting the edu-  
cation of their children. A concern is preserved  
for the orderly and seasonable dealing with offenders,  
and Judgment is placed when necessary according to  
discipline in most of our meetings; some delay and  
neglect appears in a few, and though weakness and  
many deficiencies appear, we believe there is a num-  
ber who are concerned for the prosperity of Truth.

And as the minds of Friends in this meeting were  
centered on the mournful state of Society, several lively  
testimonies were born and seasonable council im-  
ported: which we earnestly desire may be remember-  
ed and put in practice. The meeting adjourns to  
the fourth hour this afternoon.

The 11<sup>th</sup> hour, met by adjournment: after a time  
of silence, we were favoured with a lively testimony  
reaching to the minds of some present, for their  
encouragement and perseverance. The representative  
being called are present. This meeting adjourns to the  
second Hour tomorrow.

Thurs



Third day the 11<sup>th</sup>. Met by adjournment: some suitable advice being delivered, the representatives were again called and all present, except Deborah Hussey and Lydia Winston, who being indisposed are not able. The Committee presented Epistles of Epistles to Philadelphia, Long Island and our quarterly meetings, which being approved, were signed by the Clerk. Endorsements in behalf of our friends Sarah Sunday and Elizabeth Martin were signed by the Clerk, and a certificate in behalf of our friend Hugh Judge, was signed by the clerks of this and the men's meeting.

This meeting concludes under a thankful sense of the Lord's gracious Help vouchsafed through the several sittings heretofore, whereby we have been enabled to transact the affairs which have come before us, in harmony and concord, and adjourn to next year, to begin at Portsmouth on 5<sup>th</sup> Day and at Newport on 6<sup>th</sup> Day at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour for divine worship, and for discipline at the 3<sup>rd</sup> hour in the afternoon, the first day meeting to be held in the morning at the 10<sup>th</sup> Hour & in the afternoon at the 3<sup>rd</sup> hour, if the Lord permit.

Signed in & on behalf of said meeting by

Mary Brown Clerk.

From our Yearly Meeting of women friends held on Rhode Island by adjournments from the 10<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month to the 11<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1791.

To the several Quarterly Meetings hereto belonging

Dear beloved Sisters,

Being favoured to meet at this our annual assembly, we feel a renewed engagement affectionately to salute you, having received your accounts with answers to the Queries; whereby the minds of a weighty concerned remnant have been seriously



affected, in observing the many and great deficiencies conspicuous amongst us, who have long been a highly favoured people; but for want of duly prizeing and improving the privileges and mercies vouchsafed unto us in a peculiar manner; the assiduous adversary of souls, hath successfully prevailed to draw many aside, out of the strait and narrow way, where in our <sup>mothers</sup> predecessors were concerned to walk, and by faithfully following their footsteps, and attending to the gracious call which hath been extended to many, "come out of Babylon, my people" we should have been preserved from the defilements of this world, which hath dimmed the lustre of many who might have been as bright and shining lights.

Under a deep sense of these things, the living children of our heavenly Father, have been painfully exercised and engaged to labour for our help, that the ancient beauty and comeliness of our Zion may be restored. And in order to forward so desirable a purpose, several of our beloved sisters from distant parts have been engaged to recommend a religious care to withdraw from the friendship of this world, which hath prevailed to the weakening of many in to its own spirit and nature, and thereby unfitted them for the promoting the work of righteousness in the earth. May the beloved youth in a particular manner, attend to this counsel; for we have to believe, that had we as a society in a general manner, been attentive to the voice of Him, who first gathered our forefathers from the barren mountains and desolate hills, of an empty profession. Instead of turning back unto the world, many would have been induced by our example to come up to the mountain of the Lord, to the House of the God of Jacob, with desires to be taught of his ways.

It hath also been weightily advised that friends come into the practice of collecting their families together, particularly on first day evenings, and after a solemn pause read the scriptures, and let their children read them: the utility of thus endeavouring to gather their minds into stillness, we believe would



be great: far different from the manner now practiced by too many, of visiting and being visited, in an un<sup>con</sup>cerned frame of mind.

A concern hath prevailed in this meeting, that the necessities of the poor may be more feelingly sought out, by visiting them in their solitary habitations, and that they may be more fully relieved, than it appears they now are, by our answers to the Queries. Also that friends, particularly Parents, may be engaged to remedy the unbecoming practice of frequent going out of meetings, which is now too prevalent among the youth.

We have been favoured at this meeting with the company of our beloved friends. Mary Ridgway and Jane Watson from Ireland, also Sarah Lundy and Elizabeth Martin, with divers worthy brethren from Pennsylvania Yearly Meeting, whose fervent labours we hope will excite a renewed engagement in many minds to dedicate their hearts more faithfully unto him, who is still graciously extending his merciful visitations.

In love we again salute you and bid you farewell.

Signed in & on behalf of said meeting by.

Mary. Brown Clerk this year.

From our Yearly Meeting of women friends held on Rhode Island for New England, by adjournments from the 10<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month to the 14<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1791.

To the Yearly Meeting of women friends to be held in Philadelphia.  
Dear Sisters,

We trust our minds are replenished with a degree of that love, which unites the distant branches of the family in near fellowship; and under



its precious influence salute you, informing, that <sup>113</sup>  
we received your affectionate Epistle of the 9<sup>th</sup> month  
last, which was read in our meeting to our comfort  
and satisfaction. Although it has been a time a-  
mongst us in which the living members of the body  
have been baptized into a state of suffering with the  
suffering seed, and deep mourning on account of the  
sorrowful decension, so prevalent in our Society, yet  
our minds have been comforted with a hope that the  
gracious helper of Israel hath not forsaken his Her-  
itoe, nor given his people to reproach, but to the  
humbly dependant on him alone, is still manifest-  
ing that he is wonderful in goodness & fearful in praise.

Our friends, may these continued evidences of  
divine condescension, encourage the humble traveller  
to persevere in faithful obedience to the manifesta-  
tions of divine grace, and induce those who have  
often rejected the tender visitations of adorable con-  
descension, to make no longer delay, no further reserve,  
but turn to the Lord, who will yet have mercy, to our  
God who will abundantly pardon, but though mercy  
and loving kindness are his glorious attributes, which  
he is still extending to the worst mankind of his hands,  
may the Children of disobedience also remember, that  
he is a God of justice, that he has declared his spirit  
shall not always strive with man, and seek to be recon-  
ciled to him while the door of mercy is open.

Our minds have been impressed with a con-  
cern, that by waiting for the renewings of the Holy  
Anction, we may be qualified to resist with increas-  
ing evidence, against the various inroads of the ad-  
versary of our Happiness, and in the ability, which  
this affords, be engaged to come up faithfully to the  
help of the Lord against the mighty opposition to  
the prosperity of his work in the earth; that by the  
unreserved dedication of all our talents to his service, we  
may be made instrumental to the promotion of his glo-  
rious Cause, and grateful witnesses of the performance  
of his promise, of the plenteous diffusion of his blessed  
spirit upon sons and daughters.

We have been favoured, in this our large annual



assembly, with the company of our beloved Sisters from Ireland, and with that of divers other friends from your yearly Meeting, whose gospel labours have been truly comforting to us, and we trust under the sanctifying influence of that Hand, which gives the increase, will prove profitable to many. For this and every other favour, may we all be more and more concerned to offer to him who is ever worthy, the tribute of grateful Praise!

We feel a correspondent sympathy with you on behalf of the offspring of the African Inhabitants of our country, and desirous that in pious example, as well as charitable assistance, we may be useful to them. In much love we salute you, and remain your affectionate friends and Sisters in the Truth.

Signed in and on behalf of our yearly Meeting by

Mary Brown

Clerk to the meeting this year.

From our yearly Meeting of Women friends held on Rhode Island from the 8<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month to the 14<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1791.

To the next yearly Meeting of women Friends to be held at Westbury on Long Island.

Beloved Sisters,

Feeling our minds immeasurably clothed with that pure love which qualifies for transacting the affairs of the church, and for the sympathies of a holy friendship, we tenderly salute you, and inform that we received your affectionate Epistle of the fifth month last, which was read among us to our comfort and satisfaction.



We are concerned that the engagement of your <sup>113</sup> minds on our behalf, and the communication of your salutary advice, may have a tendency to excite us to greater attention to the only proper spring of religious action, and an increasing diligence in the discharge of those duties it suggests; that the ease and seeming security of this season of outward tranquility, may not lull our minds into a state of sloth and surineness, but that we may profitably remember the afflictions which the Almighty in his unsearchable wisdom has seen meet to suffer us to be tried with; the afflicting scents, some of us have had to pass through, and gratefully to offer him the tribute of adoration and praise, for his gracious preservation through them. It was evidently his doing, and ought to be marvellous in our eyes. O may his righteous judgments in the land and his manifold favours to us as a people, be not like an impression made in sand removed by every wind, but be indelibly impressed upon our Hearts, and sanctified to us by his Holy Power!

We have the satisfaction to inform you, that through the infinite condescension and mercy of the Shepherd of Israel, a tender visitation of his love is tenderly extended to our youth, many of whom, by an humble reliance upon his sufficiency, and obedience to the disclosures of his will, have been enabled to turn their backs upon the fascinating pleasures of a deceitful World, and have thereby been made useful and truly honourable in the Church. Remember dear young friends, though trials may and undoubtedly will be allotted you in this path, yet remember to keep near him, who was with the three Children, in the seven times heated Furnace of the fiery dispensation; he preserved them and yet can his royal sanctified seed, who keep under his preserving power, and will make them meet for his holy House. We affectionately invite you dear youth, to make an early dedication of your whole heart, to him, who under the law chose the first ripe fruits for his

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116 sacrifice, and in the gospel dispensation is well pleased with similar offerings. "Those who seek me early shall find me." He is yet holding out the sceptre of his love for your acceptance; he would enamour you with the beauty of Holiness, give you the riches of his grace, adorn you with meekness, support and guide you with that wisdom which is pure and which cannot err. Be prevailed upon to give an attentive ear to his voice which is to be heard, when our minds are abstracted from all visibles and centered to the place of waiting. And in your religious assemblies, seek not only to have your minds properly gathered while there, but be careful, dear young friends, that the precious dew you may have been favoured with the diffusion of, may not be dissipated and lost, by assembling yourselves in companies after meeting, and indulging in conversation, which at other times might be innocent, but by a solid retirement, preserve the sweet influence of it.

From the accounts we have received from our several Quarterly meetings, we collect, that though there are many defections from the way truth points out to its followers, which occasion sorrow to those who are concerned for the prosperity of Zion: yet that in each Quarter a number are preserved as faithful witnesses, whose garments are measurably undefiled by the spots of the world. We have also to acknowledge, as a fresh instance of divine favour, the company of our endeared friends from Pennsylvania and New York Governments, whose services have been truly acceptable and comforting to us.

With the salutation of that Love, in which we feel and own you our sisters in the best relationship, we bid you affectionately farewell.

Signed in and on behalf of said meeting by

Mary Brown Clerk to the meeting this



# At a yearly Meeting of women friends held at Newport for New England the 8<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month 1792.

Met agreeable to the adjournment of last year, and after a season of silent waiting, proceeded to Business. By accounts from the Quarterly Meetings we are informed, that the friends appointed to attend this meeting, are, for Rhode Island Quarter, Hannah Arnold, Lydia Wickes, Mary Robinson, Abigail Kerie, Sybel Reynolds & Anna Green; Salem Quarter, Elizabeth Taber, Lydia Winslow, Mary Bassel, Anna Breed, Anna Hacker and Hannah Chase; Sandwich Quarter, Anna Swain, Rhoda Tucker, Patience Austin, Phoebe Wing and Elizabeth Wing, who are present, except Abigail Kerie, Sybel Reynolds, Anna Green and Elizabeth Wing, from whom we received satisfactory reasons for nonattendance. Sarah Robinson is appointed Clerk for the present year, and Sarah Redman assistant Clerk. We are informed that Lydia Smith is appointed to the station of an Elder.

Accounts from the several Quarterly Meetings with answers to the queries were read. Received a savoury and acceptable Epistle from the yearly Meeting of Women friends, in Philadelphia in the 9<sup>th</sup> month last, which was read to our comfort and edification. We appoint our friends Lydia Wickes, Mary Robinson, Lydia Brown, Betsey Collins, Lydia Winslow, Sarah Redman, Anna Breed, Phoebe Wing, Charity Ketch and Lydia Macy, to prepare Epistles to the yearly Meetings of Women friends at Philadelphia and Long Island, to take into consideration the answers to the queries, collect a summary of the answers and to make such remarks and communicate such advice in an Epistle to the Quarterly Meetings, as may open on their minds, particularly to impress a sense of the Benefits resulting from a religious



118. care to collect families together on first Days, & often as strength may be afforded, and to read the holy Scriptures in solemn retirement. This meeting adjourns till Tomorrow, at the Hour to which the men friends adjourn their meeting.

Seventh day, the 9<sup>th</sup> met at the 11<sup>th</sup> Hour, & after a time of solid waiting, the representatives were called and are all present who attended the preceding meeting. An Epistle from the yearly meeting held in Philadelphia in the 9<sup>th</sup> month, last, & one from the last yearly meeting held in London, & the general printed Epistle from the same meeting were handed in from the men's meeting, and read in this to the refreshment of our spirits, by the pertinent and lively advice contained in them. This meeting adjourns to the 10<sup>th</sup> Hour on second Day.

Met agreeable to adjournment at the tenth hour, and after a time of silent retirement, in which refreshment has been felt, we proceeded to business. The representatives being called, all answered who before attended, and Anna Green who was before prevented by stormy weather. The Committee presented copies of Epistles to the yearly Meetings of Women Friends at Philadelphia & Long Island, with an Epistle to the Quarterly Meetings, which being read, were all approved and signed by the Clerk; also a summary state of the Society collected from the accounts brought from each Quarter, which was read and is as follows.

All our religious meetings are duly kept up, except some few prevented by severe weather; some slackness apparent in attending them, the Hour is pretty well observed, mostly clear of sleeping and other unbecoming behaviour. Some in each meeting endeavour to support that love which is the mark of discipleship, and discourage talebearing & spreading evil reports. Some friends labour to discharge their duty in the careful education of those under their care, while remissness in others, is an apparent



cause of some of our youth's departure from the 119  
simplicity of truth. The scriptures are not so generally  
read in a solid retired manner as could be desired.

Our testimony against the use of spirituous Liquors,  
priests wages and Slavery, appears to be pretty well  
supported. The necessities of the Poor are generally  
inspected, but more attention is necessary for the pro-  
per education of their children. Let altogether clear  
of keeping company on account of marriage with those  
not of our society. A concern is preserved for the sea-  
sonable dealing with offenders and judgment placed  
when necessary according to discipline, in most of our  
meetings: and though many Deficiencies are evident,  
we believe there are a number honestly concerned for  
the prosperity of the blessed cause. This meeting ad-  
journs to the hour to which the men friends adjourn  
theirs. Met agreeable to adjournment at the  
11<sup>th</sup> hour: after a time of silent waiting and some af-  
fectionate and instructive communications, proceed-  
ed to Business; the representatives being called are  
present. Certificates for our beloved friend Mary  
Kidgway directed to mount Helic monthly meeting,  
and one for our beloved friend Jane Watson, directed  
to Edenderry monthly meeting, both in the Kingdom  
of Ireland, expressive of our near unity with them  
in their gospel labours through this country, and  
desires for their preservation and safe return to their  
families and friends; were read, approved and  
signed by the Clerk. This meeting having through  
divine condescension, been favoured with much  
quietude, and a sense of the heavenly Father's love  
throughout its several sittings, under a grateful  
feeling thereof, concludes and adjourns to meet  
again if the Lord permit next year, to begin at  
Pembmouth on 5<sup>th</sup> Day & at Newport on 6<sup>th</sup> Day at  
the 11<sup>th</sup> hour for divine Worship, & for Discipline at the  
3<sup>d</sup> hour in the afternoon, the first Day meeting to  
begin in the morning at the 10<sup>th</sup> hour & in the after-  
noon at the third.

signed in and on behalf of said meeting by

Sarah Robinson Clerk.



From our Yearly Meeting of Women friends held in Newport on Rhode Island for New England by adjournments from the 8<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month to the 11<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1792.

To the several Quarterly Meetings of women Friends hereto belonging.

Dear Sisters,

We have recieved accounts with answers to the Queries from each Quarter, which have revived our sympathy with the honest hearted, and concern for the many apparent deficiencies amongst us, and though not much appears with us to communicate, yet being desirous for your encouragement and strengthening your hands in every good word and work, our minds are drawn to salute you under a sense of the kindness and condescension of him who has again been pleased to favour us in our solemn gatherings with a measure of his overshadowing fatherly regard, enabling us to transact the weighty business before us in Love and Harmony, and favouring with a living sense that he is still gracious, in extending his visitations to the various classes of the family, and in a particular manner to the young in years: may these wisely consider the importance of the present moments, the weight and inestimable value of the precious favours bestowed and be strengthened to surrender whatever is required at their hand; this, many of us, dear young friends know by experience is not an easy work to nature, but being strengthened by that Grace which is sufficient, have experienced a conformity thereto, the only way to peace and establishment in divine favour; in comparison of which an eminent apostle accounted all as dross and dung. We have particularly to revive the advice communicated last year respecting collecting families on first day evenings, and oftener as truth may impress the minds of any, and read the Scriptures in a solemn manner, let not weakness discourage from attempting to put the advice in practice. Those who wait on the Lord, it was anciently declared, shall



renew their strength, and children observing 121  
this pious care of their parents may be induced to  
prefer retirement to idle visiting or light conversa-  
tion, the effects of which might be truly salutary:  
and that those who are advanced in years, may be  
good examples to the rising generation, we intreat  
them to be circumspect in all their conduct, and  
carefully guard against drowsiness when met togeth-  
er for divine worship, or the transaction of business,  
a practice reproachful in the sight of beholders and  
tends to bring languour and weakness over a meeting.

We likewise earnestly and affectionately advise  
against the frequent and unnecessary going out of  
meetings, and that representatives would have a  
watchful eye over the members of their respective  
meetings, and that mothers would be careful ten-  
derly to advise and if need be, restrain their chil-  
dren from such indigent and unbecoming beha-  
vieur.

Under a grateful sense of our heavenly Father's  
favour in that he has not ceased to be gracious  
to his heritage, and permitting us to meet again  
at our annual assembly. With a salutation of en-  
deared love we remain your affectionate sisters.

Signed in and on behalf of said meeting by

Sarah Robinson Clerk this year.

From our yearly Meeting of wo-  
men friends held at Newport on Rhode Island  
for New England, from the 8<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month, to the  
11<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1792.

To the yearly Meeting of Women  
friends to be held in Philadelphia.

Beloved Friends

Your tender feeling Epistle from  
your last annual meeting is recieved, and the read-  
ing it in ours, was in a degree as that precious epi-



ment which was poured on the head of Aaron & descended to the skirts of his garments, diffusing a sweet odour throughout; and we trust a portion of the same lively and animating influence is felt to cheer our spirits as we thus cordially and affectionately salute you, fervently desiring that "grace mercy and peace" may yet more and more abound.

But in being favoured to feel that gospel love which truly desires the good of all, we are concerned to advert to the terms, upon which all real substantial good is alone to be obtained and enjoyed; "The good of the land is assigned to the willing and obedient. The diligent hand maketh rich." Expressions of awful import to the unfaithful, as well as of precious encouragement to the humble traveller. And may we all, dear Sisters, though at times surrounded & almost overwhelmed by a painful sense of our own weakness and insufficiency, be encouraged by the gracious promises recorded, and often with like gracious design, individually and collectively revived for our comfort and help, to press forward in the arduous path of christian perfection, and be willing to fill up our measure of duty in the church militant, yea & in faithfully <sup>following</sup> them who trod the path before us, our measure of sufferings also for the church's sake.

A remnant we trust both with us and you have sensibly experienced that "he is a god nigh at hand, a present help in the needful time," and that his compassion and his power are fully adequate to the sustaining under & bringing through the various trials temptations and conflicts with which we may be assailed, and over all these waves of affliction which at times seem to oppose our passage, though sanctified by that hand which "does all things well and wisely" they but promote our progress.

We believe this meeting has not been quite so large as usual, but favoured in a good degree with the blessings of the shepherd of Israel, who has manifested himself still graciously disposed to gather, to his fold of Sion, even the remotest wanderers of the



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flock. We note with sensible concern your information respecting the injustice and oppression recently exercised over some of the African Inhabitants of this country, and feel our minds united with yours in sympathy with them and in tender desires, that the good hand which has already so marvellously wrought in various states and nations for their relief, would dispose the Hearts of our Rulers to "love mercy and deal justly", that so our Country may be cleansed from this great Pollution.

Under a renewed sense of divine favour we conclude and are your affectionate sisters.

Signed by direction and on behalf of the meeting by

Sarah Robinson Clerk this year.

From our Yearly Meeting of women friends held at Newport for New England from the 8<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month to the 11<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1792.

To the Yearly Meeting of women friends held at Westbury on Long Island.  
Beloved Sisters,

Under a grateful sense of the continuation of our heavenly Father's love, in permitting us to meet again at our annual assembly, and with a salutation of endeared love do we at this time affectionately address you, fervently desiring the growth and establishment of all who have preferred an Inheritance in the unchangeable Truth, which the world's applause cannot give neither can its censure take away. Our meeting (though not as large as usual) has been attended with much quietude, and through the great condescension of our holy helper, the minds of a numerous have been renewedly engaged to perform the business thereof in sisterly love



124 and unity. And notwithstanding many sorrowful deficiencies amongst us are cause of mourning; we have to believe there is a living concern to support the various branches of our testimony, resting on the minds of many, among whom are some of the beloved youth, on whose behalf we feel our minds tenderly impressed with a concern for their furtherance, and preservation from every hurtful thing. May the arm of divine sufficiency be outstretched for their support both amongst you & us, and their feet firmly established on mount Zion, their spirits renewedly replenished and qualified to edify one another in love; as well as the gathering of many who may not now be fully awakened to distinguish the divine Voice, that they may be baptized by the one spirit into one body of which Christ is head.

We have not as yet had the satisfaction of receiving your Epistle, suppose it is occasioned by the detention of vessels by contrary Winds; not doubting but that uniting virtue of which we are at this time thankful to feel our minds in a good degree made sharers, has also influenced yours to salute us as sisters connected by the endeared ties of gospel love, in the fellowship of which, we affectionately bid you farewell.

Signed by direction and on behalf of said meeting by

Sarah Robinson Clerk to the meeting



At our Yearly Meeting of  
Women friends held at Newport for  
New England the 14<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month 1793.

Met agreeable to the adjournment of last  
year, and after a time of quiet waiting proceeded  
to business. The Representatives for Rhode Island  
Quarter are Hannah Arnold, Lydia Wilbur, Abigail  
Greene, Sarah Chace and Mary Robinson; for Salem  
Quarter, Deborah Rogers, Anna Hacker, Sarah Tober  
and Elizabeth Dean; for Sandwich Quarter, Anna  
Gardner, Elizabeth Wing, Mary Smith and Charity  
Ketch, who being called are all present, except Han-  
nah Arnold and Elizabeth Wing, who inform the  
reason of their not attending, was bodily indisposi-  
tion. Accounts from the several Quarters with an-  
swers to the Queries were read. Sarah Rodman is  
appointed Clerk and Sarah Robinson assistant.

A Certificate for our beloved friend Rebecca Jones  
from the monthly meeting of friends in Philadel-  
phia for the northern District held the 23<sup>rd</sup> of the  
4<sup>th</sup> month last, expressive of their approbation and  
unity with her religious concern to attend this and  
Westbury yearly Meeting, & her prospect of visiting  
some adjacent meetings, she being an approved  
minister of an exemplary life, was presented and  
read in this meeting: also one for our beloved  
friend Lydia Maskins from the monthly meeting  
held at Burlington the 6<sup>th</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> month 1793,  
expressive of their unity with her religious con-  
cern to <sup>make</sup> the like visit in company with the before  
mentioned friend, her gift in the ministry being  
acceptable: also one for our beloved friend Sarah  
Talbot from the monthly meeting of Concord Dela-  
ware County, Pennsylvania held the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup>  
month last, expressing their concurrence with her  
concern to make a religious visit to some meetings  
in these parts, she being a minister in good esteem,  
and a copy of a minute from Wilmington monthly



12<sup>th</sup> meeting of Friends in New Castle County, held the 15<sup>th</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> month 1793, for Anne Harris expressing their unity with her prospect of accompanying Sarah Talbot, she being a member in good esteem. This meeting adjourns to the 9<sup>th</sup> Hour tomorrow.

Seventh Day, met by adjournment at the 9<sup>th</sup> hour and after a time of silent waiting proceeded to Business, the Representatives being called are present as yesterday. An epistle from the yearly Meeting of women friends at Philadelphia of the 9<sup>th</sup> month last and one from Westbury of the 5<sup>th</sup> month with that of last year, were received and read in this meeting to our comfort and satisfaction, and under the impressions made by the lively advice they contain, we appoint our friends, Mary Robinson, Elizabeth Rodman, Hannah Fisher, Lydia Rington, Charity Rotch, Elizabeth Gardner, Abigail Greene, Lydia Arnold and Sarah Hacker to prepare answers to them, and communicate to our quarterly meetings a token of our collective sympathy & such advice as may open upon their minds on considering the state of Society, as represented in the accounts and answers to the Queries from which they are desired to collect a summary and bring to a future sitting of this meeting.

The situation of our beloved sisters in Great Britain and the consideration of the correspondence subsisting between the yearly Meetings of our Brethren, being affectionately opened in this meeting, our minds were so dipped into a richly sympathy & concern as to believe it is the right time to convey to them a salutation of our love, which being opened in the men's meeting and encouragingly receiving their approbation and unity, we appoint our friends, Abigail Robinson, Mary Rodman, Elizabeth Nett, Anna Green, Sarah Robinson, Sarah Rodman and Susannah Shearman to unite with the above Committee and write to that meeting.

We are informed by the account from Sand-



with Quarterly Meeting, that, Santuckel month 27<sup>th</sup> by meeting approved of the public appearance of Elizabeth North, with which they united; and our friend Mary Mitchel is desired to inform the Select Meeting thereof. This meeting adjourns to the same hour on second day to which the men's meeting is adjourned.

Second day. Met by adjournment at the 10<sup>th</sup> hour, and after a time of instructive waiting proceeded to Business: the representatives being called are present. A concern having been raised and weightily spread in this meeting, respecting a more full inspection and relief of the necessities of the poor, particularly if every family is supplied with Bibles & suitable prints for the aged to read, the committee are desired to mention it in their Epistles to the quarterly meetings, directing if such a deficiency is found, an immediate application to the several monthly meetings to supply that want, and request an account thereof may be returned to our next yearly meeting: which being opened in the men's meeting met their approbation and unity. This meeting adjourns to the 11<sup>th</sup> hour this afternoon. Fourth hour, met by adjournment, and after a time of silence, and a sacred communication, proceeded to Business. The Representatives being called are present. The friends appointed, presented Essays of Epistles, to the yearly Meetings of London and Philadelphia, which being approved were signed by the Clerk. This meeting adjourns to the same hour tomorrow to which the men's meeting is adjourned.

Third day. Met by adjournment at the 10<sup>th</sup> hour and after a time of quiet waiting, proceeded to business: the Representatives being called are present. The summary of the state of Society being this morning presented, is as follows.

Our religious meetings appear to be duly attended by a number, a few have been omitted on account of severe weather, but a slackness is apparent in many, not wholly clear of sleeping and other



unbecoming behaviour. . A degree of that love & unity is preserved which becomes the followers of Christ, and a care subsists to end Differences; some friends are concerned for a right education of those under their care while a deficiency appears in others; not wholly clear of pernicious Books, nor are the scriptures so generally read in a retired manner as could be desired. Friends are generally careful respecting spirituous liquors, but all are not concerned to keep in the moderation that truth requires. The necessities of the Poor are measurably relieved, but more care is necessary. . Not wholly clear of keeping company on account of marriage, with those not of our Society; on this account and other deficiencies, labour hath been bestowed. . Many are desirous to maintain their testimony faithfully against Slavery. . Concern subsists respecting settling affairs and making wills, to deal with offenders seasonably in the spirit of meekness and place judgment where it appears necessary in the authority of Truth. Some pertinent remarks made thereon were comfortable to our minds. Essays of Epistles to, New York yearly meeting and our quarterly meetings were also presented and with some alterations, approved and signed. Our friends Sarah Robinson and Mary Rodman are appointed to transcribe and send the London Epistle with a duplicate by another conveyance. Elizabeth Mott & Sarah Robinson are appointed to prepare Certificates or Endorsements for our beloved Friends, with whose company we have been favoured in the several sittings of this meeting. We adjourn to the 5<sup>th</sup> Hour this afternoon.

Met by adjournment at the 5<sup>th</sup> Hour, and after a time of silent waiting and an acceptable testimony, proceeded to business; the Representatives being called are present. . An alteration in the 3<sup>d</sup> Query is proposed as follows, Query 3<sup>d</sup> are friends careful to bring up those under their direction in plainness of speech, behaviour and



apparel, to restrain them from reading pernicious Books, and the corrupt conversation of the World! : Are they good Examples? <sup>herein themselves</sup> And are the holy scriptures frequently read audibly in their families; which being approved in the men's meeting met the concurrence of this. The friends appointed, presented a few lines to be endorsed on the certificates of our beloved Friends Rebecca Jones, Lydia Hoskins, Sarah Talbot and Anne Ferris which being approved in this and the men's meeting, were signed by the Clerks.

This meeting having been favoured in the several sittings thereof, with a measurable extension of divine regard; under a grateful sense of the renewal thereof, at this time concludes and adjourns to meet again (if the Lord permit) next year: beginning at Portsmouth on 5<sup>th</sup> Day, and at Newport on 6<sup>th</sup> day at the 11<sup>th</sup> Hour for divine worship and for discipline at the 3<sup>rd</sup> hour in the afternoon: the first day meeting to begin at the 10<sup>th</sup> hour; and in the afternoon at the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Signed in and on behalf of said meeting by

Sarah Redman Clerk this year.

From our Yearly Meeting of women friends held at Newport on Rhode Island for New England from the 1<sup>st</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month to the 18<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1793.

To the several Quarterly Meetings thereto belonging.

Dear Sisters,

Being favoured at this our annual assembly, with the renewed extendings of divine regard; under a degree of its precious overshadowing



influence, we are engaged affectionately to salute you. The minds of a living remnant being feelingly turned towards those in particular, who have been deprived of the privilege of assembling with us, on this solemn occasion, desiring that such may be remembered by the great & good Shepherd however seemingly secluded their abetments or tried and exercised their states. May these who are thus proved, be encouraged to hold fast their confidence in that powerful arm, which is able to save to the uttermost, and doubtless will arise for their help, whose hearts are panting after him, refusing to be comforted by any other Comforter.

We have received accounts with answers to the Queries from the several quarterly meetings, whereby many deficiencies continue sorrowfully apparent; yet we are comforted in finding a number in each meeting honestly engaged for the promotion of Truth, may all of this number be encouraged & their hands strengthened to repair the waste places in our Zion, as faithful standard bearers on her walls, that so by the expressive language of conduct, they may be enabled to invite others to come up to the help of the Lord against the mighty, and by the liveliness of their spirits be preserved a blessing in their several meetings. we were affected with sorrow in finding some complaints of sleeping, which we desire may be faithfully guarded against, as giving way to it increases the painful labour of the rightly exercised; may the Elders to whom in particular the charge of the flock is committed, be attentive and vigilant in observing the pointings of truth, to these we apprehend, that gospel injunction is particularly applicable, "Let your lights so shine before men, that they seeing your good works, may glorify your Father who is in Heaven" our minds are renewedly engaged for the welfare of the several classes of the family, and in a par-



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ticular manner, that the beloved youth may prize the visitations of divine love and be favoured with a sense of the great importance of closing in therewith, embracing the tender calls of a merciful Saviour, which are often extended in very early years, and if reverently and faithfully obeyed would prevent many painful steps; may you be prevailed with dear young friends, to embrace the opportunity put into your hands, remembering that an early sacrifice is the most acceptable, and none who rightly dedicate their hearts, will fail of their reward. The minds of a remnant are at times humbled under a sense of the great deficiency in many amongst us of duly attending our midweek meetings as well as first Days, which neglect if continued on will bring death and darkness, instead of light and inward strength to their souls, which would enable them to present their bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable in the sight of the Lord.

We are concerned that the testimony concerning spirituous liquors may be preserved pure and that an individual care may prevail, to live up to the spirit of Discipline, in avoiding an unnecessary use thereof; as too frequent a use even where no excess has been perceived has a hurtful tendency, and is unbecoming the followers of truth.

We herewith send transcripts of the Epistles received from Philadelphia and Westbury yearly meetings, recommending the lively and salutary advice to your weighty attention, as it has been comfortable and refreshing to us. A concern for the poor of our society, has been weightily revived and spread before this meeting, and we are renewedly engaged to impress the necessity of an affectionate attention towards them, and to revive the advice communicated in our Epistle of the year 1791, respecting visiting them in their solitary habitations, whereby their wants may be more fully known, and a tenderness begotten towards them, which may open the Hearts of those favoured



132 with ability suitably to administer thereto, & make way for the enquiry whether each family is supplied with Bibles, & the aged furnished with those of large and intelligible Print, and if they find a deficiency apply to the preparative or monthly meetings for their immediate supply, or if any monthly meeting is wanting in means that they apply to the Quarterly Meeting, that such a want when known may no longer remain, and an account of their progress in this concern be returned to our next yearly meeting.

This meeting from a lively communication of the situation of our beloved Sisters in Great Britain was concerned under a weighty impression of sympathy and affection to salute them with an Epistle.

We have been favoured with the company of several beloved Brethren and Sisters from Pennsylvania, Jersey and New York governments, whose company and labours have been truly salutary and refreshing to us. With desires that these renewed favours may tend to our solid advantage; we conclude your truly affectionate Sisters.

Signed in and on behalf of said meeting by

Sarah Redman Clerk this year.

From our Yearly Meeting of women friends held in Newport on Rhode Island for New England, by adjournments from the 1<sup>st</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month, to the 18<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1793.

To the next Yearly Meeting of women friends to be held in Philadelphia.  
Beloved Sisters

We have received your affection-



ate epistle of the 9<sup>th</sup> month last, which, to the 133  
refreshment of our spirits, has been read in this  
meeting: and in that pure love, which reaches  
over sea and land, which nothing of a temporal  
nature can impair or divide, are the minds of a  
living remnant amongst us feeling engaged to sa-  
lute you. May all who have experienced this  
love, seek, carefully seek to cultivate its increase  
in their own hearts, and depend upon the abil-  
ity derived from it, for the performance of every  
service which the church requires at their hands.  
This would support and animate our minds to  
the discharge of every religious duty, and effectually  
preserve us from departing from the substance,  
and resting in the form. And we are renewed-  
ly sensible that no production of the mere hu-  
man intellect, how fair soever it may appear, or  
however embellished with the ornaments of litera-  
ture and earthly wisdom, can afford substantial com-  
fort or refreshment to minds which are hungering af-  
ter that Bread, which the Father is at times gra-  
ciously condescending to impart to his depend-  
ing children: a portion of which we may thank-  
fully acknowledge, has been dispensed to us at the  
several sittings of this our annual assembly, where-  
by the drooping Travellers have been encouraged  
to hold on their way, and their faith strengthened  
in him who has called them to work in his Vin-  
yard. May this class every where, be encouraged  
to an unreserved dedication of heart to his ser-  
vice: that through his blessing upon their honest  
endeavours, the waste places may be repaired,  
our Zion yet become the beauty of nations, and  
Jerusalem the praise of the whole Earth. While  
from the prevalence of their pure example, and  
the affecting evidence of the divine favour, sup-  
port and assistance vouchsafed unto them, coop-  
erating with the heavenly visitation to their  
tender minds, the rising generation may be en-  
amoured with the beauty of Holiness, and make  
a willing surrender of the morning of their days,



134 and of all the Talents with which it has pleased their Creator to endow them, to the promotion of the same blessed cause in succeeding years.

From the accounts from the several Quarters, exhibited to this meeting, we have abundant cause feelingly to sympathize with you, in your sense of the great declension apparent amongst us as a Society, from primitive life and power; yet are we comforted in the belief that a number are preserved in each meeting who are animated with becoming zeal for the Truth. O may the careless and indifferent Daughters, be aroused from their Beds of rest, be suitably aware of the importance of the call extended to them, and yield obedience to it, lest it should be withheld and the awful sentence, "let her that is filthy be filthy still" be heard instead of the tender invitations of that love which is often addressing them in the persuasive language of divine compassion; unwilling that any should be excluded from the fold of rest, but desirous that all should return, repent and live. We have been favoured with the company of several beloved Sisters from your yearly meeting, who have been strengthened feelingly to unite with the exercised amongst us, in a travail for the prosperity of Truth; for this and every other mercy, may we be enabled to return an acceptable tribute of thanksgiving to the Sovereign author of all good. We may inform you that a concern has arisen in this meeting to commence a correspondence with our beloved Sisters in Great Britain, which after being solidly weighed, and having the concurrence and sympathy of our Brethren; resulted in an Epistle to the yearly meeting of Women Friends in London.

With a salutation of endeared love, we remain your affectionate Sisters.

Signed by Direction and on behalf of said meeting by Sarah Redman  
Clerk this year.



From our Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held at Newport on Rhode Island for New England from the 11<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month to the 18<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1793.

To the next Yearly Meeting of Women Friends to be held at New York.  
Dear Sisters.

Impressed with an humbling sense of divine favour at this time, do we affectionately salute you and unite in desires that the heavenly blessings from season to season, thus mercifully afforded, may be gratefully received, by which we may experience an increase and growth in the truth, and by persevering in the line of divine appointment, feel the feet of our minds more firmly established on the Rock of ages; that the influence of example united to an honest Labour may strengthen our Hands in repairing the breaches which evidently appear among us, a sense of which is cause of deep mourning to the exercised Travellers, in whose minds we believe this enquiry often revives, who shall deliver us from this body of death? to whom this comfortable language is sometimes afforded, the Lord is able to dispel the Clouds, to break down the wall of opposition and exalt his name among the children of men. And Oh! that those of all ranks, the aged, middle aged and the belov'd youth, who are yet unacquainted with the holy influence of the cross of Christ, may be prevailed on to yield obedience to the blessed manifestations of the Prince of Peace in their own hearts, whereby the number of burden bearers may be increased & the precious testimony advanced.

Your lively Epistles of 1792 and the 5<sup>th</sup> month last, met our cordial reception, and we hope the pertinent advice communicated to us, will be profitably remembered. All thy children shall



be taught of the Lord, and great shall be their  
 peace, was the ancient promise; which has been  
 graciously fulfilled to many, and when under his  
 teaching, our hearts are enlarged to perform  
 those acts of benevolence which render more com-  
 fortable the solitary dwellings of the lonely in  
 Israel; it is a labour which he in his mercy has  
 condescended to bless even in a private capacity,  
 and we were comforted to find your labour was  
 thus crowned, by the substantial blessing of his  
 enriching peace. A similar concern being  
 revived in this meeting, we have also taken  
 an additional care to inspect the necessities  
 of the Poor, which we hope will be a means of  
 opening the way for more effectual relief of  
 these amongst us. We have been favoured with  
 the company of several beloved friends from  
 Philadelphia and your Yearly Meeting, who  
 have laboured acceptably among us, and a desire  
 attends our minds, that the extendings of di-  
 vine regard, which hath at this time been com-  
 fortable experienced, may not pass suddenly  
 away, but the savour of it long remain and  
 prove a preservative from those hurtful things  
 which are ready to intrude, and often insensi-  
 bly divert our affections from the inexhaust-  
 ible source, whence alone is derived solid and  
 permanent riches. We have received accounts  
 from our several quarterly meetings, and although  
 we have sorrowfully to observe great declensions  
 from that purity & simplicity which mark the  
 footsteps of the true disciples. Yet we believe there is  
 a number preserved, who are, under the influence  
 of best Wisdom, concerned to stand as watchmen on  
 the Wall, and use their endeavours to turn the  
 feet of the unwary from the snares spread by the  
 adversary of our souls happiness. With the saluta-  
 tion of love assigned, we bid you affectionately farewell.  
 Signed in and on behalf of Sarah Redman with this year  
 of said Meeting by



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From our Yearly . Meeting of women  
friends held at Newport on Rhode Island  
for . New England, by adjournments, from the  
14<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month to the 18<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive  
1793. To the next Yearly . Meeting of wo-  
men friends to be held in London.  
Dearly beloved Sisters,

Having been favoured  
in our present annual assembly, with a renewed  
manifestation of the continuation of divine re-  
gard, and an increase of that love witnessed,  
whereby the living members of the Body of which  
Christ is head, however outwardly distant, are  
feelingly united in the precious Bond of gospel  
fellowship, and enabled to travel together for  
the prosperity of Zion; we have been engaged  
in much nearness of affection to offer the salu-  
tation of our unfeigned love, wishing that "Grap-  
e . Mercy and Peace" may be multiplied amongst  
you.

It has been comfortable to the living to  
find, that in the cherishing of divine Wisdom  
way hath been made for the establishment of  
a women's Yearly . Meeting in your Kingdom:  
a more particular account of which, than we  
had heretofore received, having been now spread  
in a lively manner before us, hath administered  
refreshment to every sensible mind, and was the  
means of baptizing our spirits into a near union  
and fellow feeling with you, in your arduous &  
important undertaking: and under the solemn  
covering which hath invested our minds at this  
time, we are engaged to propose a correspond-  
ence with you; having the full concurrence of our  
Brethren herein.

We apprehend deep trials are often the al-  
lotted Portion of some amongst you at this sea-  
son; but we trust that help cometh which hath in  
a wonderful manner sustained and succoured the



faithful through the deepest afflictions, will continue to be made bare for their preservation, & graciously stretched forth for the deliverance of many from the bondage of sin and Death; to introduce them to the marvellous light of his presence, wherein they may celebrate the solemn feast of thanksgiving, and enter his courts with joy, become joined to the Lord in a perpetual covenant, being added thereby to the number of bright examples of our day and worthy successors to the valuable privileges purchased by the deep sufferings of our honourable ancestors.

That the alarming difficulties which threaten your Borders, may be thus sanctified to the praise of <sup>our</sup> holy head, and high Priest; and the present season of outward tranquility, with which, after a long series of conflicts, we are measurably blessed; may meet a grateful and humble return, is the united harail of our spirits, while thus sensibly attracted towards you in a feeling remembrance of days that are past, when similar probations were allotted us, the dreaded effects of war were felt in our land, and waves of sorrow raged over some of our heads. But the most high was pleased in the Days to manifest his mercy; his powerful arm wrought deliverance to many, and condescended to refine thereby & lead into his service. And doubtless he would more plentifully have diffused his blessings, had it been the uniform care of all his visited and chastized children to dwell in his fear, fulfilling the design of his wisdom, who withholdeth neither Grace nor Glory, nor any good thing from those who love and serve him?

We may with gratitude acknowledge, we have been favoured with his evening presence in this our solemn gathering, uniting us in exercise to conduct the weighty business before us in harmony and condescension: being favoured with the company of divers beloved Sisters from Pennsylvania and New Jersey, who have



been enabled encouragingly to labour for the promotion of the glorious cause, and thereby made true helpers to the humble & contrite ones.

By accounts received from our Quarterly Meetings we find that love and concord are in a good degree preserved: religious meetings kept up and generally attended; our christian discipline comfortably supported; and a commendable care is extended for the assistance and relief of the poor. And though great deviations from that purity and holiness which so eminently distinguished our predecessors, when first separated from the World, are sorrowfully to be observed; yet we believe there are, in the several branches which compose this Yearly Meeting, a livingly exercised remnant, who "prefer the welfare of Jerusalem to their chiefest joy;" and are fervently desirous that all the talents which their heavenly Father hath intrusted to them, may be dedicated to his service, & made instrumental to the accomplishment of his glorious Work in the Earth.

Although, under a sense of our own weakness, much diffidence hath attended us in presenting this sisterly communication to your acceptance, yet believing that the concern proceeded from the pure Fountain of life and love, and that if the divine blessing attends, the smallest offerings will have an enlivening effect upon the pure seed, which is one in every heart, though in various degrees of dominion and dejection. We have been encouraged to transmit this testimonial of our united engagement for your prosperity and preservation.

We are not desirous, dear sisters, of laying you under any restraint, but if, by the circulating influence of that love, which hath been measurably felt by us at this time, your hearts should be enlarged to an epistolary reply; we trust it will be acceptable to the living amongst us, & we mutually enabled, through this medium, enough



140 outwardly far separated, to take sweet counsel  
together, and go up to the house of the Lord in  
company."

We cordially salute you and remain your  
affectionate friends and sisters.

Signed on behalf and by }  
direction of said meeting by }

Sarah Rodman  
Clerk this year.



At our Yearly Meeting  
of women friends held at New-  
port on Rhode Island for New  
England, the 13<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month 1794

Met agreeable to the adjournment of last  
year, and after a season of quiet waiting proceed-  
ed to Business. The Representatives for Rhode  
Island Quarter are, Hannah Arnold, Mary  
Brown, Sarah Fowler, Deborah Greene and Ruth  
Langford; for Salem Quarter; Anna Breed, Ke-  
zia Birchall, Elizabeth Varney, Deborah Rogers,  
Hannah Sewe, Lydia Winslow and Anna  
Hacker; for Sandwich Quarter; Deborah Davis,  
Susannah Russell, Mercy Anthony, Perceas  
Brown, Abigail King, Abigail Rogers, Char-  
ity Ketch and Sarah Howland, who being cal-  
led are all present. Charity Ketch is appoint-  
ed clerk this year and Mary Brown assistant  
clerk. A copy of a minute from the monthly  
meeting of friends held at Germans patent the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
of the 5<sup>th</sup> month 1794, on behalf of our beloved  
friend Hannah Bernard, recommending her  
as a minister in good esteem; was read in this  
meeting, to our satisfaction. Accounts from the  
several Quarterly Meetings with answers to the  
Queries were read. An Epistle from the Yearly  
Meeting of New York held in the 5<sup>th</sup> month last,  
was received and read, to our comfort and encour-  
agement. Perceas Brown, Anna Hacker, Abi-  
gail Lawton, Anna Breed, Abigail Robinson,  
Huldah Gere, Lydia Winslow, Mary Williams,  
Charity Ketch, Sarah Otis, Hannah Chace and  
Elizabeth Gardner, are appointed to prepare Epistles  
of Epistles to Philadelphia and New York Yearly  
Meetings; also to communicate to our Quarterly  
Meetings a token of our love, and sympathy  
with them, and such advice as may suitably  
impress their minds; they are likewise desired to  
collect a summary account of the state of society



149 from the answers to the Queries, and bring to a future sitting of this meeting. This meeting adjourns to tomorrow, to the same hour to which the men's meeting is adjourned.

Seventh day; met by adjournment at the 10<sup>th</sup> hour, and after a time of silent waiting and several acceptable testimonies; proceeded to business. The Representatives being called are all present. An Epistle from the Yearly Meeting of women friends held in Philadelphia in the 9<sup>th</sup> month last, was read to our edification. We are informed by the account from Sandwich Quarter, that they approve of the public appearance, in the ministry, of Dorcas Brown; with which this meeting unites. By the account from Rhode Island Quarter we are likewise informed, that they approved the public appearances in the ministry, of Anna Greene and Abigail Robinson; with which this meeting also unites. This meeting adjourns to the 10<sup>th</sup> hour on second day morning.

Second day: met by adjournment at the tenth hour; and after a season of silent waiting, and a saving communication, proceeded to business. The representatives being called are all present. The summary state of Society being presented and having the approbation of this meeting, is as follows.

Our meetings for worship and those for discipline are duly attended by a number; except in a few instances occasioned by the severity of the weather; yet a slackness appears in many. The hour is observed. Sleeping appears in some at times; and too frequent going out of meetings for discipline; for which some labour has been bestowed. Most ly clear of other, unbecoming behaviour.

A considerable number are concerned to maintain Love and Unity, as becomes the followers of Christ; who endeavour to discourage tale-bearing, backbiting and evil reports; but all are not careful enough in these respects; some care is taken to end differences. A care subsists amongst friends to educate those under their



direction, in plainness, to restrain them from AB  
reading pernicious Books, and the corrupt con-  
versation of the world, and to be good examples  
themselves, also to encourage the reading of the  
Scriptures in their families: but we fear many are  
deficient in these important duties. The unneces-  
sary use of spirituous liquor is generally avoided.  
Mostly clear of unnecessary frequenting taverns &  
places of public resort; where it appears otherwise  
some care is taken, and a good degree of modera-  
tion is observed at Births, marriages & burials. A  
care subsists among friends, to provide for the  
poor, and that their children may partake of  
learning and be placed among friends: and a  
concern remains with friends, to prevent their  
children's keeping company; or admitting pro-  
posals of marriage, without their consent first  
obtained. Some instances of keeping company,  
and marrying with those not of our Society; for  
which labour has been bestowed. We have no  
trials in regard to priests wages or military mat-  
ters. Mostly clear of being concerned in prop-  
erty taken in War; buying or vending goods suspect-  
ed to be run, or making false entries to evade the  
payment of duties. Friends are mostly careful to  
inspect their affairs, and settle their accounts  
while in health, but not altogether careful in mak-  
ing wills, and it does not appear but that gifts  
and legacies, are applied to the use intended by  
the donor. There appears to be an increasing con-  
cern to support our testimony against slavery, &  
encourage in virtue, those who have been held  
therein. Friends are mostly careful to perform  
their promises, and pay their just debts, and not  
launch into business beyond their ability to man-  
age in the truth; where it appears otherwise, labour  
has been bestowed for amendment. Marriages are  
all recorded; some neglect in Births and Deaths,  
although a care subsists on that account, as also  
on account of friends removing from, or coming  
amongst us without certificates. A concern remains  
amongst us to deal with offenders in making one



144. wisdom, yet we fear at times, some unnecessary delay, and also in placing judgment.

We are informed by the men's meeting, that they had the dividing of Solem Quarterly Meeting, under consideration, and it was their judgment, that the three lower monthly meetings be set apart, to compose one, by the name of Portsmouth Quarterly Meeting, which after duly weighing, received the approbation thereof, & is also approved by this meeting. An Essay of an Epistle to the Yearly Meeting of Philadelphia, was read, approved and signed by the Clerk. This meeting adjourns to the same hour, to which the men's meeting adjourn, this afternoon.

Met by adjournment at the 4<sup>th</sup> hour, and after a time of quiet waiting and supplication, proceeded to business. The Representatives being called are all present, except Susannah Russell, who was prevented attending by indisposition. This meeting adjourns to the 9<sup>th</sup> Hour tomorrow.

Third day met by adjournment at the 9<sup>th</sup> hour, and after a season of instructive silence, and an acceptable testimony, proceeded to business. The Representatives being called are all present, except Mary Brown, who we are informed, was called home on account of sickness in the family. An Essay of an Epistle to the Quarterly Meetings, and one for the Yearly Meeting of New York, was read approved and signed by the Clerk. A few lines endorsed on the back of the minute for our beloved friend Hannah Barnard, expressive of her company and services being acceptable and edifying to us, was read, approved & signed by the Clerks of both meetings.

This meeting having been measurably favoured through the several sittings, with the overshadowing of divine regard, under a grateful sense thereof, we conclude and adjourn, to meet again, if the Lord permit, next year, in the 6<sup>th</sup> month, beginning at Portsmouth on 3<sup>rd</sup> Day & Perseport on 6<sup>th</sup> day at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour for divine worship, and for



discipline, at the third hour in the afternoon, 11.5  
the first day meeting to begin at the 10<sup>th</sup> hour, and  
in the afternoon at the 3<sup>rd</sup> hour.

Signed in and on behalf of said meeting by

Charity Retch Clerk this year

From our Yearly Meeting of  
women friends held at Newport on Rhode  
Island for New England, from the 13<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup>  
month 1794 to the 17<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive.

To the Quarterly Meetings here-  
unto belonging.

Dear Sisters,

Being favoured through the con-  
tinuation of heavenly regard, to meet again  
at this our annual assembly, and feeling our  
minds renewedly replenished, with that pre-  
cious sympathy which is the consolation of  
the faithful; we are engaged affectionately to  
salute you, ardently desiring your growth and  
establishment in that which leads to everlast-  
ing peace. And though beloved friends, many  
are the trials and temptations of these, who are  
enquiring the way to Zion, and many very ma-  
ny the devices of our unwaried adversary, to  
ensnare the mind and draw it off from that  
watchfulness, where alone preservation can be just-  
ly looked for, yet a remnant hath at this time  
humbly to acknowledge, that the Lord is the refuge  
of the righteous, is the same yesterday to day &  
forever, and that his gracious promises remain  
to be fulfilled, unto all that do indeed prefer  
Jerusalem's welfare, to their chiefest joy; under  
the influence whereof we have been favoured  
at this time to transact the weighty concerns that



146 have come before us, in love and condescension. Notwithstanding the minds of a remnant hath been sorrowfully affected, under a sense of the many deviations, that remain and we fear increase amongst us, as set forth in the answers to the Queries; particularly the neglect of the attendance of meetings, the unbecoming practice of sleeping when met together for divine worship, which if given way to, brings death over the meeting, and heavy burdens on the honest hearted. Yet the living amongst us have been comforted in a renewed belief, there are in all our meetings, a remnant preserved who are desirous to be found doing their day's work in the day time: may the number of these be enlarged, is our fervent desire; and you experience an increasing weight of solemnity to cover your spirits. When met, in order to which, beloved Friends, we beseech you to dwell under an exercise of mind when out of meetings, as a necessary preparatory for that worship, which is only acceptable in the sight of him who searcheth the Hearts, and will absurdly have a tried People. And dearly beloved Sisters, you that are mothers and heads of families, may your dwelling be in the depths of that River of Judgement, which is absolutely needful for the washing away of all filthiness of flesh and spirit, and under the purifying influence of that holy fire which is able to purge away every thing that is contrary to the nature of that fervent charity, which is alone can sanctify and render truly useful, every degree of faith, zeal and knowledge, that you may become happily qualified to caution, advise and restrain, under its sweet and powerful influence the beloved youth; under your care, without forfeiting their affections, or in the least degree hurting the Oil or the Wine, while we are endeavouring to guard them against the many hurtful things which are prevalent in



in the world. The neglect of which important <sup>the</sup> duty, we fear has in too many instances, proved the source of that sorrowful, and may we not say growing evil of keeping company and marring out of society, which we believe has brought many deep trials upon some of them, and perhaps clothed them with sackcloth, through life; we feel renewedly engaged to impress upon their tender minds, a lively sense of the necessity there is for an individual exertion, that they may be rightly qualified to come up to the help of the Lord against the mighty; running the race that is set before them with alacrity of heart, enduring the cross, and despising the shame, as the only sure means of obtaining that blessed inheritance, which fadeth not away.

It was comfortable to find, by the several accounts brought up, that the weighty concern which livingly arose in our last Yearly Meeting, has operated in so extensive a manner, as to produce some relief to the poor; we are still sensible of the necessity of continuing under this exercise, and recommend to all those who are favoured with a sufficiency of the good things of this life, to hand forth liberally, as faithful stewards: remembering this comfortable salutation of our blessed Saviour "in as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done unto me."

We herewith send transcripts of Epistles from the Yearly Meetings of Philadelphia & New York, which have been read in this meeting to satisfaction, and we earnestly recommend the advice therein contained to your serious attention.

Having been favoured with the company of our beloved friends John Simpson, Joshua Evans, Henry Hall, and Hannah Barnard, from Philadelphia and New York Yearly Meetings, whose gospel labours of love, in the discipline of the Church, have been truly acceptable to a living remnant. Under an humbling sense thereof, we conclude your truly affectionate Sisters. Signed in and on behalf of said meeting by

Charity Welch Clerk this year.



From our Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held on Rhode Island for New England from the 13<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> mo to the 17<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1794.

To the Yearly Meeting of women friends at Philadelphia.  
Dear Sisters

Under a thankful sense of the renewed manifestations of our heavenly Father's Love, in the lifting up of the light of his countenance upon us in this our annual gathering, are our minds fervently engaged to greet you in the bonds of gospel fellowship. Your instructive Epistle of the ninth month last, sensibly revived in our minds the cordial sympathy, in which many have feelingly participated the cup of affliction, which has been recently administered to you, wherein living desires have been raised that the late awful display of almighty Power be indelibly impressed upon our Hearts. Some amongst us have been baptized with you into that contrition of soul which enables ~~us~~ to say, "Let not thine hand spare nor thine eye pity, until thou hast made me what thou wouldst have me to be;" being bowed in spirit before the majesty of heaven and earth in the humbling consideration of his gracious dealings with the children of men, in that he still vouchsafes to remember mercy in the midst of judgment, and hath qualified a remnant amongst you dear Sisters to adore his holy name, in the awful calamity with which he hath been pleased to visit your City. Nothing short of the qualifying virtue of his power can enable us to attain this situation of mind, enjoined by the apostle, and which is indeed the height of attainment. "In every thing to give thanks". And may this memorable visitation, happily conduce to awaken from the lethargic stupor of sensual ease and



forgetfulness of our almighty Creator: these 119 who have not yet been roused to a lively sensibility of his omnipotence and Justice, and by reducing these dangerous propensities, excite an ardent desire of coming to the washing Pool, to be cleansed of every defilement, that they may be rendered acceptable in his sight, who hath declared, "that unto him every knee shall bow and every tongue confess, either in mercy or in judgment." It was comfortable to observe that a number among your youth were yielding to the yoke of the testimony in early life, promising a succession of standard bearers: may they be encouraged to hold on through every opposition, which the enemy may cast in their way, that they may witness the arising of the spirit of truth as the brightness of the morning, to dispel the clouds which may sometimes dim its lustre in their view; and happily experience the consolatory evidence of divine acceptance: we ardently desire their growth and establishment, sensibly feeling the loss of many pillars removed from the Church.

We have gratefully to acknowledge the continuation of holy help, in favouring us through the several sittings of this Yearly Meeting with the Canopy of his Love, by which we have been enabled to transact the weighty concerns of the Church in harmony and concord.

We have received accounts from all the Quarterly Meetings which compose this, by which we find there are many deficiencies in some branches of the family, though a number have been added to Society by conviction since last year. We have likewise been favoured with the company of divers fellow labourers from the western Yearly Meetings, whose sympathy and gospel services amongst us have been comfortable and edifying. We cordially remain your Sisters.

Signed in and on behalf of the Yearly Meeting aforesaid by

Charity Potch Clerk this year.



From our Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held on Rhode Island for New England from the 13<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month to the 17<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1794.

To the next Yearly Meeting of Women Friends to be held at New York for the State of New York.

Dear Sisters,

Having renewed cause, in humble gratitude to the author of our being, to acknowledge that his regard is yet towards his children, however scattered. Under a degree of its precious influence, we have been enabled to meet from various parts on this solemn occasion, wherein we affectionately salute you and acknowledge the receipt of your truly acceptable Epistle of the fifth month last, which was read in this meeting to our comfort and Edification.

We feel our hearts nearly united to a living remnant, who have had various deep and trying scenes to pass through, and many a bitter cup to partake of. But alas! what shall we say? it is all in wisdom, unerring wisdom, whose ways are unsearchable, and past all finite comprehension; in order no doubt to wean us more and more from these fading delusive enjoyments, which are but for a few moments, compared with an endless eternity, to which we are all hastening, with a sure and solemn progress: may we with holy vigilance and entire prostration of Heart so walk, as to be accounted worthy to enter into the mansions of eternal rest, being of the number of the wise Virgins, having oil in our Vessels and our Lamps trimmed, that so the solemn message of "Heward give up thy stewardship for thou mayest be no longer Heward," may be joyfully received, and an admittance into that rest, which is prepared for all those who persevere in well doing to the end. And may the beloved Youth be privileged with to devote the



morning of their time to his service, some of 151 whom we trust are called to labour in the Lord's Vineyard, and may there be a willingness to give obedience to the requiring of the great Shepherd of Israel, who is leading forth into the green pastures of life, and we trust that the Shepherd's crook of his Love is yet stretched forth in order to gather home some from the Barren mountains and desolate hills of an empty profession.

By accounts brought from the several Quarterly Meetings we are informed that Love and Unity is in a good degree preserved, and discipline maintained by many, but have with sorrow to observe the want of a more fervent engagement of Heart in many among us, who might have been as way marks to others, had their been a faithful coming up in their allotments, yet we are encouraged in believing that there is a living remnant who are engaged at Heart, that Zion may arise and shake herself from the Dust of the Earth and put on her beautiful garments.

Our meeting has been large and favoured with divers friends from distant Parts; whose labours of Love in the gospel and in the Discipline of the Church have been truly instructing and encourageing, and we have been comforted in believing through the several sittings of this meeting, that the Lord is yet mindful of his Church & People, in sending his messengers to proclaim the glad tidings of the Gospel amongst us.

In the fervent breathing of Christian sympathy, we affectionately conclude your sisters.

Signed in and on behalf of said meeting by

Charity Retch Clerk this year.



Our Yearly Meeting  
of women friends held at Newport  
on Rhode Island for New England,  
the 11<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month 1795.

Not agreeable to the adjournment of last year. The Representatives for Rhode Island Quarter, are Ruth Shearman, Deborah Henry, Mary Earl, Abigail Lawton, Anna Greene and Mary Brown; for Sandwich Quarter, Patience Austin, Hephzibah Wing, Elizabeth Wing and Lydia Ketch; for Salem Quarter, Hannah Dow, Rebecca Dean, Hannah Collins, Mary Abbot and Jane Peasly; for Natick Quarter, Elizabeth Taber, Anna Hacker and Phoebe Southwick, who being called, are all present, except Elizabeth Wing, who was prevented attending by indisposition.

Charity Ketch is appointed clerk for this year and Lydia Ketch assistant. Accounts from the several quarterly meetings with answers to the Queries were read, upon which some tender and pertinent remarks were expressed, worthy our serious attention.

Our beloved friends, Martha Kouth, Deborah Parby and Rebecca Young, from Europe, attended this meeting and produced Certificates from their respective monthly meetings, with concurring Certificates from their quarterly meetings, and the Yearly Meeting held in London; expressive of their unity with them as ministers, and affectionate sympathy in their present engagement, which were read to our satisfaction, exciting similar feelings in the minds of some present.

This meeting adjourns to the 10<sup>th</sup> hour to-morrow morning.

Not agreeable to adjournment and after a season of silent waiting, proceeded to business. The representatives are all present, that were



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yesterday, except one, who we are informed  
was prevented attending by indisposition. An Epis-  
tle from the Yearly Meeting of women friends  
held in London by adjournments, from the 19<sup>th</sup> to  
the 28<sup>th</sup> of the fifth month 1794; containing much  
seasonable and affectionate advice, was read to  
our satisfaction. Abigail Robinson and Betsy  
Purinton are appointed to prepare an Essay of  
an Epistle, to our beloved sisters in London, and  
bring to a future sitting of this meeting. Also an  
Epistle from the Yearly Meeting of women friends  
of Philadelphia, held in the ninth month last,  
containing much instructive counsel, was read  
and kindly accepted. Lydia Wicks and Mary  
Brown are appointed to prepare an Essay of an  
Epistle, to their ensuing yearly meeting, and bring  
to a future sitting of this. A salutary and lively  
epistle from the Yearly Meeting of women friends,  
held at New York, by adjournments, from the 25<sup>th</sup>  
of the 5<sup>th</sup> month to the first, of the sixth month 1794,  
was read to edification. This meeting adjourns to  
the third hour this afternoon.

Met agreeable to adjournment, and after  
a time of silent waiting proceeded to business, the  
Representatives being called are present, except  
two, who are indisposed. Mehitable Jenkins, Re-  
member Anthony, Mary Williams and Sarah  
Hacker are appointed to prepare an Essay of an  
Epistle to our sisters of New York yearly meeting,  
and bring to a future sitting of this. Anna Walk-  
er, Phoebe Nichols, Elizabeth Purinton, Mary  
Anthony, Alice Amy and Sarah Hoxie, are ap-  
pointed to take the answers to the queries, con-  
sider the state of Society, collect a summary there-  
from and if any advice occurs to their minds  
with weight to communicate to the quarterly  
meetings, to prepare it in writing for the consi-  
deration of this. Hepzibah Wing, Mary Ketch,  
Elizabeth Brown, Ruth Hadron, Lydia Hadron,  
and Mary Ketch, are appointed to transcribe the  
Epistles for the several quarterly meetings.



A printed Epistle from the Yearly meeting held in London, in the 5<sup>th</sup> month 1794, containing instructive and seasonable counsel, hath been read to our satisfaction. The account from Rhode Island Quarter informs, that they have approved of the appointment of Elizabeth Mosier, Alice Congdon, Dorcas Weaver, Anna Thornton and Sarah Steer to the station of Elders, with which this meeting unites. A memorial from Swanzey monthly meeting, endorsed by the Quarterly Meeting, concerning our beloved and much valued friend Patience Mayhew deceased, bearing testimony to her pious life, religious labours & peaceful close, hath been read and feelingly united with. This meeting adjourns to the tenth hour on second day morning.

Met agreeable to adjournment, and after a season of silent waiting, wherein minds present have been refreshed, proceeded to business. The Representatives are all present. The friends appointed to prepare Epistles to the Yearly Meetings of women friends of Philadelphia and New York; presented them, which were united with and signed by the Clerk. This meeting adjourns to the fourth hour this afternoon.

Met agreeable to adjournment, and after a time of silence proceeded to business. The Representatives are all present. The friends appointed to collect a summary, from the answers to the queries; presented it, which was read and is as followeth.

Meetings for worship and discipline are kept up, except a few, occasioned by the severity of the weather and sickness, and duly attended by most friends, though there appears to be a slackness in divers. The hour is mostly observed. Some complaint of sleeping, and an unnecessary going out of meetings for discipline, for which labour has been bestowed. Love and unity are preserved by a remnant in each meeting who are concerned to discourage talebearing &



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suppress evil reports. Where any differences have appeared, care has been taken to end them. Many Friends are concerned to bring up those under their care, in plainness, and to restrain them from reading pernicious Books, and the corrupt conversation of the world; endeavouring to be good examples themselves, and to encourage reading the holy Scriptures in their families; but there appears a deficiency in others in these important duties. Generally careful to avoid the unnecessary use of spirituous liquors, frequenting Taverns and places of public resort; a few instances excepted, for which care is taken: moderation and temperance mostly observed. The care of the Poor is generally attended to, and their children partake of some learning, though a further care appears needful. Friends are generally careful respecting marriages, except some instances of keeping company with those not our Society, for which care is taken. There is no complaint as to Priests wages or military matters, nor property taken in war. Generally careful to inspect affairs and settle accounts: some neglect in making Wills. Publick gifts duly applied. Our testimony is generally maintained against Slavery, and we concern our friends minds to encourage in virtue those who have been held as Slaves. Friends are mostly careful to perform promises and pay debts, and not launch into Business beyond their ability to manage in the truth. Careful in recording marriages. Some neglect in Bills and Deaths. Care is taken respecting Certificates. Care is taken to deal with Offenders in meekness and wisdom, and that judgement may be placed in the authority of truth; yet some delays in these respects are apparent.

. A consideration hath been weightily spread before this meeting, whether it may not be as useful after reading, to omit answering some of the Queries at each Quarterly meeting, except that preceding the Yearly Meeting, that the most im-



156 portant ones may be more fully entered into by friends in their respective meetings; which being united with is submitted to the men's meeting. The friends appointed to communicate to our quarterly meetings such advices as suitably impressed their minds; presented an Epistle, which was read approved & signed by the clerk. This meeting adjourns to the 10<sup>th</sup> hour tomorrow morning.

Met agreeable to adjournment, and as way opened proceeded to business; the Representatives are all present. A certificate on behalf of our beloved friend Martha South directed to the monthly meeting of Maryland, the quarterly meeting of Lancashire and the Yearly Meeting of ministers and Elders held in London; expressive of our unity with her movements in the line of the ministry, and various other services, she hath performed in the course of her late acceptable visit in these parts; hath been read, united with and signed by the Clerks of both meetings. A similar one for our beloved friend John Higham directed to the monthly meeting of Aberdeen, half year's meeting of the North Britain and the Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders held in London, was read approved and signed by the clerk; and one for our beloved friend Joseph Cloud, directed to the monthly meeting of Lane Creek, and the quarterly meeting of Center North Carolina, manifesting our unity with his late visit, was read approved and signed in this meeting. The friends appointed to prepare an Epistle to the Yearly Meeting of women friends held in London, presented it, which hath been read, approved and signed by the clerk. An Epistle from our beloved friend George Churchman, to this meeting, hath been read and kindly accepted.

We having been measurably favoured through the course of the several sittings of this meeting, with a sensible feeling of the continue extension



and overshadowing of heavenly regard: under  
a grateful sense thereof, the business being accom-  
plished, we conclude and adjourn to meet again,  
if the Lord permit, next year in the 6<sup>th</sup> month, begin-  
ing at Portsmouth on fifth day, and Newport on  
sixth day, at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour for worship, and for disci-  
pline at the 3<sup>d</sup> hour in the afternoon; the first day  
meeting to begin at the 10<sup>th</sup> hour and in the after-  
noon at the third Hour.

Signed in and on behalf of  
said meeting by

Charity Welch Clerk this year.

From our yearly Meeting of  
women friends held at Newport on  
Rhode Island by adjournments from the 11<sup>th</sup>  
of the sixth month 1795 to the 16<sup>th</sup> of the same  
inclusive.

To the Quarterly Meetings  
hereto belonging.  
Dear friends

Under an humbling sense of the  
condescension of divine goodness mercifully  
vouchsafed to us at this time, wherein we have  
been enabled to transact the weighty affairs that  
have come before us, in much harmony and con-  
cord; we affectionately salute you, and an earnest  
solicitude of heart hath been begotten for the Church's  
prosperity, and deep supplication to the Father of  
mercies that our Zion might yet arise, put on her  
beautiful garments and become the praise of the  
whole Earth; and that every branch of the fam-  
ily might be engaged to come forward to the  
great work, and by putting shoulder to shoulder,  
be enabled to repair the many breaches and



158 waste places, which sorrowfully appear in many instances, particularly in that of selling out the mind so far as to keep company and merry with those not of our society; which is cause of mourning to a concerned remnant, who are travelling as in the Deep for the preservation of the youth of the present Day, that they may keep on their watch, carefully guarding against every thing that would draw their minds after the fading enjoyments of this world; which are of short duration in comparison with an eternal eternity.

We have been favoured with the company of our beloved friends - Martha South, Deborah Parry and Rebecca Young from Europe, with divers other friends from different yearly Meetings. Whose gospel labours of love, and in the discipline of the Church, have been truly comfortable and edifying; in order to the encouraging of mothers to a deep travail of spirit, for their tender offspring; that as they feel their minds engaged, to sit down with them, in order to feel their strength renewed, and to administer suitable advice as truth may open the way.

We have received Epistles from our beloved Sisters, in London, Philadelphia and New York, containing seasonable and salutary advices, which we herewith send, recommending them to friends notice.

Signed in and on behalf of said meeting by

Charity Rotch Clerk.

From our yearly Meeting of women friends held on Rhode Island for New England, from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> of the sixth month inclusive 1795.

To the yearly Meeting of women



Beloved Sisters,

Your salutary Epistle of the ninth month last hath been read and was as ointment poured forth: and having been favoured with the gracious extendings of that love which unite all the members of the true Church into one body, of which Christ is head, and enables them to drink into one spirit, however separated from each other as to the outward, by sea or land; in which we affectionately salute you, with desires that we may individually retain a grateful remembrance of the many favours and mercies vouchsafed to us for our restoration preservation and establishment in the Church militant; that when time to us here shall be no more, we may join the Church triumphant, in adoration & praise to him who was, and is forever worthy.

May we dear friends ever remember the covenant we have made in seasons of persecution and affliction, as well as of special favour, never forgetting that tenderness which hath been wrought on our minds by the incomes of divine love, as by thus keeping humble, we shall experience the gracious promise. "The humble he will teach of his ways and the meek he will guide in judgment," whereby we shall be qualified and enabled to fill up the places of those worthies who have been of late removed from works to rewards.

May Parents and those of the elder rank be excited to increasing diligence, that they may become as nursing mothers to the visited children of the Lord; for we are comforted in believing that it is a day of signal favour to the youth, in which the divine arm is wonderfully revealed, for the redemption of many from the pollutions of the World. And dear young friends it is to you that we look for a succession of testimony bearers to the blessed Truth, which both at some seasons been made more precious in your sight than gold, and



all the enjoyments which this world can afford. Oh! dearest let it ne intreat you, as the pearl of great price, the one thing needful, and all things necessary will be added; that when trials may be suffered to attend on every side, you may be enabled to flee to the Rock Christ Jesus: Where the righteous in all ages have ever found safety.

We have thankfully to believe that by accounts brought up from the several Quarters composing this meeting, there are some in each, who are engaged faithfully to maintain our discipline, and support truth's testimony in its various branches.

We have been favoured with the company of our beloved friends Martha Reuth, Deborah Parbey and Rebecca Young, from Europe, whose labours in the ministry, as well as in the Discipline of the church have been truly edifying and comfortable to us.

In a measure of that love that first gathered us to be a people, and in the language of an inspired apostle we again salute you, "may grace mercy and peace be with you and abundance," is the fervent breathing, of an exercised remnant at this time.

Signed in and on behalf of  
our yearly meeting by } Charity Rotch Clerk this year.

From our Yearly Meeting of women friends held at Newport on Rhode Island for New England from the 11<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month 1795 to the 16<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive

To the Yearly Meeting of women friends held at New York.

Beloved Sisters,

Being favoured once more to collect from various parts, at this our annual



meeting to transact the weighty concerns of the 1st Church. Your lively and instructive Epistle hath been read amongst us, which hath afresh excited the acknowledgement of gratitude thanksgiving & praise, to the great author of all our mercies, in feeling that He is still pleased to reach forth the work of his love, in tender invitations to us, not only by immediate and indubitable evidences secretly impressed on our hearts, but through various mediums conveying instruction to our minds, and especially so in the several paragraphs of your communication, which hath raised a renewed assent to the usefulness of thus continuing an Epistolary correspondence while supported in the wisdom and power of truth, and though the living amongst us have been at this season baptized into deep poverty and close searching of heart, yet hath the great minister of the sanctuary vouchsafed to diffuse the precious anointing of his holy spirit, refreshing our minds with heavenly food, and animating to press forward with increased fervency and diligence, beholding the Harvest to be great and the faithful labourers but few, in comparison of the number that are called to labour in the vineyard of the Lord; under a prospect of which hath the spirits of a remnant been prostrate in reverent supplication before him, intreating the continuance of his paternal care over the visited children of the family, that they may be preserved to come up valiantly in their several ranks, sensibly feeling the loss recently sustained by the removal of many Pillars from the militant church, the consideration of which hath come solemnly before the view of this meeting, and awakened many minds to closely scrutinize their own conduct, and examine how far their standing is approved in the sight of him who only gathers the wheat into his heavenly garner.

We note with peculiar satisfaction your lively remark on the great utility which results from the solid retirement of Families in silence, and



162 quiet waiting together, to put their strength inwardly renewed, and feelingly subscribe to the practice, believing if it was more frequently and weightily attended to, even by the Elders of the church, it would not only prevent much defection and disorder, which still tarnishes the lustre of our Zion, but often be rewarded with the blessing of Peace, and an increase of wisdom and strength to step forward in our several allotments in life.

And as we are fully persuaded that a tender visitation of divine Love is eminently extended to the dear youth; we fervently solicit their diligent attention to the secret admonitions of truth, believing that preservation and safety can only be witnessed by watchful and faithful obedience to the openings of this precious principle of light & grace, we wish weightily to impress the necessity of an early surrender to the call, lest some may have unhappily to lament in succeeding time that the harvest is past, the summer ended and they not gathered within the enclosures of rest and peace.

We have been favoured at this meeting with the company of our dear friends, Deborah Parby, Rebecca Young and Martha Keuth, from Europe; whose gospel services have been strengthening and edifying to us, also divers friends from the western Yearly Meetings, who have been at this time fellow labourers in the precious cause.

We have received Epistles from our dear sisters in London and Philadelphia yearly Meetings, which furnishes occasion of thankfulness that the great master is still pleased to baptize his children by one spirit into one Body, though outwardly separated; under an humbling sense of which, we salute you, dear friends, and conclude in the fellowship of the gospel.

Signed in & on behalf of  
our yearly Meeting by Charity Ketch Clerk this year.



From our Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held at Newport on Rhode Island for New England from the 11<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month 1795 to the 16<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive.

To the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held in London.

Dear beloved Sisters

We feelingly unite with you in believing that the continuance of our correspondence, can only be rendered beneficial by the seasoning virtue of the pure spirit of truth accompanying our communications. And we trust under the portion of that precious influence, we are engaged to acknowledge the receipt of your truly acceptable Epistle which being read in this our annual assembly, excited in many minds a degree of thankfulness, that our benificent Father is still pleased to preserve a lively sympathy between the distant branches of his family, who though personally unknown and far separated, are thereby at times united in him and secured to experience an infusion of ability jointly to labour for the promotion of his own glorious Cause; which <sup>we</sup> are comforted in believing he is still advancing. And though we deeply feel the loss which the church hath sustained by the removal of divers dignified Pillars, to which number is added our beloved friend Patience Brayton, with whose gospel labours you have been acquainted, yet the minds of a remnant are engaged to rely on him whose is the silver & the gold; who is yet able to raise up and qualify servants & beautify his House.

And if some of the youth amongst us, on whom his forming hand is turned, patiently abide the day of his coming, who is like a refiner's fire, and like Sullers scap, and will have pure Vessels for his service; we have cause to hope that the seats of these who having valiently combatted in the Sams war-fare, are removed to a triumphant state with him; will be filled with a succession of standard bearers



164 to the honour of his name, and their own unspeakable advantage. May all of this class both with you and us be encouraged to trust in the Lord at all times, under whatever proving dispensation or deep Baptisms he may appoint, that having the feet of their minds established upon the rock of safety and sure dependence of his humbly dedicated followers, they may in his own time arise as from the Bottom of Jordan, with their stones of memorial, and having seen his ways in the Deep; some may have to testify of his marvellous works, whereby those who are still contenting themselves at a distance may be excited to draw near; and taste and see that the Lord is good.

Our present assembly is large, and we have cause gratefully to commemorate the continued goodness of our holy Head, in that <sup>he hath</sup> been pleased to dispense a portion from his heavenly Table to the refreshment and strengthening of many constituted ministers, and is ab still sending his qualified Messengers to visit this part of his Vineyard.

We being favoured at this time with the company of our beloved friends, Martha South, Deborah Farby and Rebecca Young, from England, whose lively exercise and labours, both in the ministry and the discipline of the Church, have been truly comfortable to us; the former having made a general visit through our yearly meeting, where her service has been very extensive and acceptable, is now about to quit this arduous field of labour, into which the two latter are just entering. May these and every other instance of the continued extension of divine paternal regard duly impress our minds and excite an individual engagement to render the tribute of obedience and unreserved dedication for all his benefits, which will afford grounds for confidence that whatever outward calamities whether public or private may in the course of his wisdom be permitted, these may experience preservation



in every trying hour. We have received ac- 165  
counts from all our Quarterly Meetings, from  
which a hope is revived that there are some in  
each, honestly concerned for the support of the tes-  
timonies of Truth. Under a renewed engagement  
of mind, that the number of those both with us  
and you may be increased and strengthened, we  
affectionately salute you and remain your friends  
and sisters.

Signed in and on behalf  
of the Meeting by

Charity Rotch Clerk this year.



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At a Yearly Meeting  
of women friends held at  
Newport on Rhode Island  
for New England, from the 10<sup>th</sup> of  
the sixth month to the 13<sup>th</sup> of the same inclu-  
sive 1796.

Met agreeable to the adjournment  
of last year, and after a season of silent waiting  
proceeded to business.

The friends appointed to attend this meet-  
ing are, for Rhode Island Quarter, Mary Lu-  
thens, Elizabeth Inague, Ruth Sheerman,  
Abigail Robinson, and Sarah Fowler; for Sand-  
wich Quarter, Anna Gardner, Deborah Davis  
Belience, Justin D. and Deborah Rogers; for  
Salem Quarter, Eunice Varney, Elizabeth Varney,  
Huldah Gere, Mary Babel and Abigail Same;  
and for Folmouth Quarter, Anna Hooper,  
Lydia Winslow, Phoebe Southwick and Sarah  
Hobbs, all present except Sarah Hixie and Je-  
borah Reeves, from whom we have received satis-  
factory excuses for not attending. Cherry Hixie is appointed clerk and Elizabeth  
Cushman assistant in this year.

Accounts with answers to the Queries from  
the several Quarters. Minutes were received and  
read. The account from Rhode Island Quarter  
informs that they have approved of the appoint-  
ment of Sarah Fowler and Deborah Reeves to the  
Station of Elders. Sandwich account also informs  
that they have approved of the appointment of  
Abigail Cushman to that Station, with which  
this Meeting unites.

A touching Epistle from our beloved Sis-  
ter of New York county Meeting hath been read  
to satisfaction. Abigail Robinson and Dorcas



Brown are appointed to prepare an Essay on Justice in early thereto, and bring to a future sitting of this meeting.

This meeting adjourns to the same Hour tomorrow to which the Men adjourn theirs.

Not agreeable to adjournment at the 8th hour. The Representatives are present that were Yesterday, except one, who was detained by indisposition. Lydia Winston, Micah Benten, Alice, Mary, Lydia, David, Ann, Scotland and Elizabeth Thomson are appointed to prepare from the answers to the queries a summary of the state of Society, and communicate such Advice to our Quarterly Meetings as may suitably improve their minds, and bring to a future sitting of this meeting.

The concern that mightly speed over our last Yearly Meeting, respecting an alteration, in answering the Queries, being revived in this we appoint Anna Hether, Anne Gardner, Anne Bice, Ann, Daniel, Peter, Brown, Deborah Davis, Mary Brown, Mary Basset, Anna Greene and Sarah Coker to unite with a Committee from the Mens Meeting to look that and other matters into consideration, as may may open.

Our beloved friends Deborah Davis and Rebecca Young having performed a concert of song within the centre of this same Meeting, much to our satisfaction we appoint Sarah Robinson, Elizabeth Turner, Anne Thompson, Peter to prepare a certificate for them, expreessing thereof, and bring to an adjournment of this meeting.

A memorial from Providence Monthly Meeting, and from the national Half Yearly Meeting of Friends held in Ireland, concerning our beloved and much valued friend of Matt. bearing testimony to his pious life, industrious labours and peaceful Men, he being in the course of his visit to Ireland, removed from Wick to Newlands: both been read & fully approved.

Cherity Welch Elizabeth Cresswell and the men



168 are appointed to prepare an Epistle to our beloved Sisters of Philadelphia yearly Meeting, and present to a future sitting of this.

This meeting adjourns to the 10<sup>th</sup> Year on second day morning.

Met by adjournment at the 10<sup>th</sup> Year on second day morning. The Representatives are all present that have heretofore attended.

Our beloved friend Hannah Barnard having been prevented by Indisposition attending the preceding sittings of this Meeting, was present, and produced a minute from Hudson Monthly Meeting, expressive of their Unity with her as a Minister and in her present concern, which hath been read to Satisfaction.

An Epistle from our beloved Sisters of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting held by adjournments from the 15<sup>th</sup> of the 9<sup>th</sup> month to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the 10<sup>th</sup> month 1796, containing weighty and sensible counsel, hath been read to our Satisfaction.

The friends appointed to collect a summary of the State of Society, presented it, which hath been read and approved, and is as follows.

It appears from the answers to the Query that all our Meetings have been attended, except a few, where women friends were prevented by stormy weather. Some slackness in regard to the Year and meeting, clear & sleeping and unbecoming behaviour. A good spirit of love and Unity is maintained, though not so fully as becomes our position, and a concern to discourage evil Reproaches. Where differences have arisen care hath been taken to end them; and many friends are concerned for the right Education of those under their care and to guard them from every hurtful thing, and that the testimony may be preserved in its several branches. The Scriptures are audibly read in most families. Generally content in regard to the fourth Query. Friends are concerned to relieve the



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necessities of the poor and provide for the instruction of their children. Some placed from amongst Friends. Disorderly marriages generally disapproved. The seventh Query decr. Not clear as to bills, but care is taken. No gifts or societies mentioned. A Testimony against Slavery is measurably maintained and those encouraged in virtue that have been held therein. Generally carried in each part of the tenth Query. Care taken according. Not clear as to Certificates, wherein care is taken. There is a concern to deal with Offenders in the spirit of meekness, yet it appears in some instances not without some delay. Judgment is placed according to Discipline.

An Epistle to our Quarterly Meetings was presented, which hath been read, approved and signed by the Clerk.

The Committee appointed to take into consideration the answering of the Queries, made the following Proposition. It is recommended, that in future, the monthly Meetings be not required to send answers to the Quarterly Meetings, except to the first, second, and twelfth Queries, only once in the year, at the Meeting next succeeding the yearly Meeting, when they are to answer them all as heretofore; but that all the Queries be read in the several Meetings, quarterly. And friends are desired to stir one another up to a more diligent application of the important Duties both enjoined to themselves individually, that an increase of care may be witnessed by this attention; which hath been adopted to this meeting and an extract of this minute is directed to be inserted in our Epistle to the Quarterly Meetings, for their information, and the Representatives are desired to see that it is handed to their respective monthly Meetings. This Meeting adjourns to the 3<sup>d</sup> next after afternoon.

Met by adjournment, at the third Hour, the Representatives are present that have hitherto attended.

The Friends appointed to prepare a Certificate



170 for our beloved Friends Deborah Darby and Rebecca Young, presented it, which was read & approved & signed by the clerks of both meetings.

The friends appointed to prepare an Epistle to the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends in Philadelphia, presented it, which hath been read & approved and signed by the Clerk.

The friends appointed to prepare an Epistle to the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends of New York, presented it, which hath been read, approved and signed by the Clerk.

An endorsement for the minute of our beloved friend Hannah Barnard expressive of her testimony and services being acceptable to us, hath been read, approved and signed by the clerks of both meetings.

A Testimony from Sandwick Monthly Meeting concerning our esteemed Friend Anna Allen deceased, hath been read and approved.

Having been renewedly favoured in the several sittings of this meeting, measurably to feel the comforting of Heavenly Regards under a grateful Sense. Whereof the Business being accomplished we conclude and adjourn, to meet again, if the Lord permit next Year in the sixth month, beginning at Portsmouth on fifth Day and at Newport on 6<sup>th</sup> Day at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour for Worship and for Exercise at the 3<sup>d</sup> hour in the afternoon; the first day's Meeting to begin at the 10<sup>th</sup> Hour & in the afternoon at the 3<sup>d</sup> Hour.

Witnessed in and on behalf of said Meeting by

Charity Petch Clerk this year.



1771  
From our Yearly Meeting of Wo-  
men Friends held at Newport for  
New England, by adjournments from the  
10<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month to the 13<sup>th</sup> of the same  
inclusive, 1796.

To the Quarterly Meetings there  
to belonging.

Dear Sisters

After a Salutation of Love to  
you this most incense, that we have been  
been favoured to meet together, although not so  
largely as usual, yet measurably favoured with  
the refreshment of Divine Love, whereby we  
have been renewedly strengthened to transact the  
weighty concerns that came before us, in harmony  
and concord, having received the accounts  
from the several Quarterly Meetings with regard  
to the Quaries, wherein many deficiencies are appa-  
rent, which is evident by the slackness of the attend-  
ance at Meetings. May you be aroused to an un-  
derstandable dependance, even while in your domestic con-  
cerns, and constrained by a sense of Duty, not  
to neglect the assembling yourselves together on  
week days to wait on the Lord, for, one hour  
in his presence is better than a thousand else-  
where. Notwithstanding many are allured to a  
state of ease in this our Day. May those who  
feel their minds exercised for the Prosperity of  
Zion, be encouraged, dwelling Love in their Hearts  
waiting for divine aid and Instruction, that they  
may in all their movements witness the arm  
of sufficiency to be their support through every  
trial, and though some may have to pass a time



17) the Signs, may they not give out, or it was such  
that had the Command to take up the Stones of  
memorial, and likewise had to sing the Songs of  
Praise. And dear Friends, <sup>you</sup> who are Mothers  
heads of Families, Elders and Overseers in the  
Church, may a sense of the important trust re-  
posed in you, sink deep in your minds and a  
solemn search take place; for a Fear hath taken  
hold of the minds of a Remnant, lest the Breeds  
of some who are departing from the Paths of rec-  
titude, should be required at some of your hands;  
therefore double your diligence, watching over  
your tender offspring, and those under your care  
for good, timely cautioning them against keep-  
ing company and moving with those not of  
our Society. And dear young Friends, may  
you feel the necessity of dwelling alone, abid-  
ing under the operation of that holy Hand  
which we believe is turning many of your minds  
for good. We do not feel much to add, being re-  
ady to say in our Hearts, alas! what more can  
be said or done, that has not been already done.

We received an acceptable Epistle from the  
Yearly Meeting of Women Friends at Phila-  
delphia and one from New York, Transcripts  
of which we herewith send by the Representatives,  
recommending the instructive advices therein  
contained to your serious attention; and it is also  
recommended and adopted by the Yearly Meeting  
that in future the monthly Meetings be not  
required to send answers to the Quarterly Meet-  
ings, except to the first, second and twelfth Queries,  
only once in a year, at the meeting next preceding  
the Yearly Meeting, when they are to answer them  
all as heretofore, but that all the Queries be read in  
the several Meetings quarterly; and Friends are de-  
sired to stir one another up to a more diligent ap-  
plication of the important duties by them enjoined  
to themselves individually, that an increase of care



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may be witnessed, by this attestation.  
We again salute you and remain your Sisters.

Signed by direction of said Meeting, by

Charity. Rotch Clerk this Year.

From our Yearly Meeting of women  
Friends held at Newport on Rhode  
Island for New England from the 10<sup>th</sup>  
of the sixth month to the 15<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive  
1796. To the Yearly Meeting of women friends at Philadelphia  
Dear Sisters,

We have joyfully to acknowledge  
the favour of your acceptable Epistle, which hath  
been read to our refreshment and Edification and  
leaving our minds impressed with a degree of that  
love that ever ought to influence communications  
of this kind; we are engaged affectionately to so-  
lute you, fervently desiring that precious "Bond of  
fellowship" may continue, which hath characterized  
the faithful in all ages and ever will distinguish  
the followers of our noble Pattern.

Our present assembly though not so large as u-  
sual hath been immeasurably favoured with the  
overshadowing of heavenly Regard, wherein the bu-  
siness has been conducted in Harmony and under-  
standing, and the minds of a remnant have been  
humbled under a sense of his goodness, who thus  
graciously continues to deal with us not according  
to our deserts but his own matchless kindness.

And though in looking into the State of Society



the exercised Travellers are deeply affected at the apparent declension from that ancient purity that adorned our worthy Predecessors, and from the consideration "that the Harvest is great and the faithful labourers few"; yet we earnestly desire, that none with you or us may be discouraged or give way to unprofitable suggestions, which the Enemy of our Souls may present to our View, who is still seeking to enslave the mind and draw it off from that watchfulness where alone is true safety. But dear friends as a little ability is afforded when we are favoured with access to the Throne of Grace, may we not cease to intercede with the great Husbandman to send forth more labourers into his Vineyard, which we are comforted in believing is his gracious Design, and that many a - ment you as well as with us of the beloved youth have been effectually reached with the touches of his love, and are enamoured with the beauty of holiness: for these our spirits are renewedly engaged, ardently desiring their growth and establishment in the unchangeable Truth, that so there may be a succession of standard Bearer and soldiers for the cause of righteousness in the Earth. And dear Young Friends, though our minds are affected with deep sisterly feelings at the consideration of the many Persecutions, Temptation and Trials that are allotted unto those who have taken the holy Resolution "to follow the Lord in the way of his requiring." Yet it wins our Hearts to salute you with the language of encouragement, being well assured that unfeignedly sacrifice is the most acceptable, and such as rightly dedicate their hearts to his service, who make an unreserved surrender of self will experience a being brought into the Banqueting House and his Banner over you will be Love.

With desires for your perseverance and steady



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advancement in the line of Divine appointment  
we remain your affectionate Sisters.  
Signed in and on behalf of said meeting by

Charity. Rotch Clerk this Year.

From our Yearly Meeting of  
women friends held on Rhode Isl-  
and for New England from the 10<sup>th</sup>  
of the sixth month to the 15<sup>th</sup> of the same in-  
clusive 1796.

To the Yearly Meeting of wo-  
men friends held at New York.  
Dear Friends,

Although it hath pleased  
the omniscient Disposer of all things at this  
time to elate to us a Portion of salutary Exercise  
to know the opening of the Spring of life, yet a  
lively conviction being thereby reverently im-  
pressed upon our minds of the insufficiency of every  
other Qualification unaccompanied by this, for  
the performance of our religious Duties, and an  
humble dependence on him who hath the Key  
of David excited, we have cause gratefully to ac-  
knowledge the adorable Condescension of our  
gracious Father who hath manifested himself to  
be good to them that wait for him, by affording  
a rev of his divine Presence, whereby the Allego-  
ries of discouragement are measurably removed,  
and a little strength experienced to labour for  
the Promotion of his own blessed cause. And it  
is the present privilege of our souls that this un-



176 Mercy, which his bounteous Hand bestows, may  
proceed to a powerful incitement to an increasing engage-  
ment on our part, to know the sacrifice of obedience.  
Thanksgiving and Praise to be prepared in our hearts  
by him who can only be acceptably praised by his own  
works: as this desire and a corresponding dedication  
and submission to the divine Will becomes preva-  
lent it will afford an excellent foundation for  
confidence in him who is the sure refuge and never  
failing Defence of those "who trust in him before  
the Sons of men;" for though he may see meet  
to prove even these with varied trials, yet the  
arm of everlasting Kindness being underneath, as  
their minds are stayed on him they will doubtless  
in his own time experience the unchangeable  
verity of that gracious Promise; "though thou  
pass through the Waters I will be with thee, and  
through the Rivers they shall not overflow thee,  
when thou walkest through the fire thou shalt  
not be burnt, neither shall the flame kindle up-  
on thee," one having witnessed the efficacy of his  
preserving Power and tasted of his Goodness, they  
may thereby become qualified to speak a word  
in season for the strengthening of others, and be  
hazily instrumental to increase the number of  
the devoted followers of Christ, who being him-  
self made perfect through suffering hath left a no-  
ble example of Patient resignation to the will of  
the heavenly Father, which with his encouraging  
Declaration that "where I am there shall my Ser-  
vant be," we desire may be profitably remember-  
ed by all. It is cause of humble Praise to observe  
by your late acceptable Epistle, that the gracious  
intentions of divine Goodness have been wisely  
yielded to by many of your beloved youth (and  
we may also thankfully acknowledge by divers a-  
mongst us) may their number increase and they  
be encouraged to unreserved surrender of self their  
Hearts to his guiding Hand, remembering that it  
is only the dross and the Chaff which can never



inherit his favour that will be removed that 177  
so the precious metal and the weighty wheat may  
be fitted for his service and become approved in his  
sight. In this desirable state whether inward trials  
or outward afflictions are dispensed, the shadow of  
the Almighty will be to them a sure fortress where  
they shall not be afraid for the terror by night nor  
for the arrow that flieth by day, nor for the pestilence  
that walketh in darkness, nor for the destruction  
that wasteth at noon day," earnestly desiring  
that both you and we may more and more know  
this for our abode. We affectionately salute you  
and remain your friends and sisters

P.S. We have been favoured at this yearly  
meeting with the acceptable company of our  
beloved friend Hannah Barnard, as far as her  
Health would permit.

Signed in and on behalf of said meeting by  
Charity. Ketch Decr 17th year.



At our Yearly Meeting of women friends held at Newport on Rhode Island for New England, the 9<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month 1797

Not accountable to the adjournment of last year. The representatives appointed to attend this meeting are for Sandwich, Lucy Bond, Deborah Gore, Elizabeth Gardner, Abigail Austin, Mary Bond, Lydia Brown and Lydia Whipple for Rhode Island, Deborah Gore, Sarah Bond, Abigail Bond, Ruth Brown, Sarah Brown, Ruth Brown, Elizabeth Brown and Abigail Brown for Salem, Sarah Cutler, Alice Robinson, Fuldah Gore, Martha Hanson and Beryl Allen for Southwicks, Lydia Parker, Hannah Rogers, Phoebe Pope jun<sup>r</sup> & Lydia Winston all present.

Charity Welch is appointed clerk for this year and Lydia Wickes assistant clerk.

We have received accounts with answers to the queries from the several Quarterly Meetings, which have been read, wherein divers devotions are expressed, some of them reported to be under friends care. The account from Rhode Island Quarter informs, that they have approved of the public appearances of Elizabeth Coggeshall and Sarah Hilder in the line of the ministry, also the appointment of Sarah Northwick, Rachael Baber and Hannah Chace to the station of Elders.

Our beloved friend Charity Cook attended the Meeting and produced certificates from the North & Quarterly Meetings of Friends at South Weymouth from the yearly Meeting at New Bedford and from the Yearly Meeting at New Bedford, manifesting their unity with her as a minister, and in her present capacity is said to be of this continent.



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previous to her procedure on her important Embassy  
to Europe. Her company and gospel labours being  
highly acceptable to us.

After some short business Elizabeth Gorton  
and Anna Walker are appointed to collect from  
the answers to the Queries, a Summary of the state  
of Society and communicate such services to our  
Quarterly Meetings as may suitably improve their  
work and bring to a future sitting of this meeting.  
The meeting adjourns to the 9<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> tomorrow  
morning. I I

Not agreeable to adjournment. The representa-  
tives present, who attended yesterday: In Epistle  
from the Yearly Meeting of women friends held in  
London in the 3<sup>rd</sup> month 1796 containing instruct-  
ion and reasonable counsel, both been read to our  
satisfaction. Mary Williams and Bessie Ste-  
vens are appointed to write to that meeting and  
bring to a future sitting of this.

10. Short Epistle from the Women's Yearly meet-  
ing of Philadelphia, both been read with satisfaction and  
suitably adapted to the state of our meeting. El-  
izabeth Arnold and Philadelphia Chubb are ap-  
pointed to write to that meeting.

In Epistle from the Women's Yearly Meeting  
held at New York both been read containing sub-  
stantive advice. Charity Hatch and Lydia Vicker are  
appointed to write to that meeting.

Memorial for our beloved friends Benjamin  
Buxington and Theophilus there given forth by  
himself. Heartily received and united with by  
those of our Quarterly Meeting bearing witness  
to their pure lives, religious labours and peace-  
ful close, were read and approved.

This meeting adjourns to the same hour, sec-  
ond day morning to which the men appear their  
Meeting adjourns to the 10<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>. The re-  
presentatives present, that have hitherto attended.

Our beloved friend Lydia Hoskins attended this  
meeting and produced a certificate from the Monthly



180 meeting of friends held at Burlington, expressing  
their unity with her as a minister and in her prison  
concern to accompany our friend Charles back in her  
sail to these parts. Her departure said to be very  
being very acceptable to us.

The friends appointed to collect a summary of  
the State of Society from the answers to the Queries  
produced at with some address to our Quarterly  
meetings which were read, approved and signed  
by the Clerk.

It appears that a considerable number are con-  
vinced to attend all our religious meetings to some  
against dangerous ones. In that line those remain  
the following of them. That our testimony respect-  
ing slavery, the abuse of spirituous liquors, gaming  
and the other branches of our government are pretty  
well maintained in general, though not without di-  
vers exceptions, on which account <sup>some</sup> labour is bestowed.

The friends appointed to write to the Yearly  
Meeting held at Philadelphia, presented an Epistle  
which was read approved and signed by the Clerk.

Also those appointed to write to New York,  
presented an Epistle, which had  
been read approved and signed by the Clerk.

It proposed from the next meeting regard-  
ing an alteration in the times for holding this  
yearly Meeting and Salem and Wilmouth Quar-  
terly Meetings was read approved and was as follows.

That the Yearly Meeting begin with a meeting  
for Ministers and Elders at Wilmouth on Rhode  
Island, the seventh day after the second sixth day  
in the sixth month at the ninth hour in the morning  
and the public meetings for worship to begin on the  
day following both at Wilmouth and Wilmouth at  
the tenth hour in the morning and at the fourth  
the afternoon. The meeting for business to begin at the  
Serpent at the ninth hour on second day morning  
following. Salem Quarterly Meeting to be held  
the fourth day after the first sixth day ~~the~~  
on the sixth month at Salem.



Charity Potch Clock.

*Dear Friends,*







To the Society, Meeting of Friends, recently  
held in Philadelphia.

Dear Friends,

Being equally more sensible of the  
importance of our situation, in respect of our souls, but that  
all good cometh from God: we are desirous to feel af-  
ter his putting forth, in the maintenance of this our  
gracious correspondence, that encouragement and  
edification may be witnessed to arise therefrom.  
And we now acknowledge with an inexpressible  
experience in the reading of your last acceptable  
letter, how much we are indebted to the  
excellency of that love, wherewith the Father hath  
loved us, who continueth to baptize the living mem-  
bers of his Church, into a feeling, one with another, o-  
pening wounds, both inwardly and outwardly,  
according to our different states. Like your exhortation  
in verse 10. "Let our doctrine incessantly be-  
come us, as the fountain of living water, and strength  
as to know all our fresh springs to be from thence, that  
we need not that any man teach us, but as the same  
anciently teacheth all things, and is truth and life."

For want of a deep attention to this inspiring  
word, which would not only preserve from every de-  
filement of flesh and spirit, but animate to a faith-  
ful discharge of our several duties, how are many  
falling short herein and causing the truly exercised to  
be heavy in their way. May such both with us long  
and be thus striking the bow of consolation, whether  
sitting in a state of lament, or taking place  
in the joy, consider whether the cry of the Lord  
thought, through the mouth of his prophet, is not  
applicable to them. "Are ye not children of the prom-  
ission? that by a deep rooting of heart, and diligence  
in the great law, ye be long neglected they awaken;  
Zion is redeemed through judgment and all her  
concerns be righteousness. Enjoining the same in-  
struction, of holy will, but ye are prepared the way to  
move the stumbling block out of the way of my people."



But should any still remain contented in leading the outward life, making only a profession of religion, let not this prove a discouragement to those who have put their hand to the work (whether among the tenderly young youth, or those of more years) we are but too well acquainted with whom we have been altogether able to preserve and sustain every attachment as there is a cleaving to him with the whole heart, soul, and strength, and the love of his neighbor, this is the happy experience of all is our sincere desire.

We have at this time the privilege of commending our beloved friends, Mother South, the late Cook and Lydia Haskins, whose gospel labors among us have been strengthening and encouraging to many minds.

In the renewings of gospel Fellowship we desire to salute you and to express our affectionate regards.

Signed in and on behalf of said meeting by

Charity Etch Clarks

To the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held at New York.

Dear Sisters,

Your acceptable communication, received in our minds a degree of that precious feeling which life enlivens and life and by the influence which which we make in believing and a love, powerful from all carnality, we affectionately salute you, feeling the efficacy thereof to be like a breath to the soul, leading to the return and increase of those who are undeviatingly with their attachment, and however laborious the path assigned to those in that situation, may they who bear so great a burden, cheerfully cheer in tending to that point, who will not be wanting to support by a manifestation of his spirit all who are obedient thereto, the power



not be at times their religion and various doubts, but  
their frequent experience, not to generally believe the  
say of light, but to feel by the power of the Holy  
and at times be enabled to send an helping hand  
to those who may be looking out for help and  
mercy, and should become our own brethren in the  
roll of our day. Then beloved friends, let not a re-  
sistance to divine requirements mar the work upon the  
heart, that in their day they may be able to give the  
types of honour in the same house. And this has been  
more the case in the present generation, we have to  
believe that there would be more way-works for  
those who are looking towards Zion, the City of the Saints  
eternally, more than ever would have been intro-  
duced by parents to their tender offspring, and by time-  
ly instruction, and by the power of the Holy Spirit  
of preparing in their hearts the way of the Lord  
for what if this have stayed side from the  
truth, and accordingly become firm in pro-  
fession. Our minds have been exercised on account  
of these, when the solemn duty shall be made "where  
are those saints which were given unto thee, in the  
pastor's hand?"

To the beloved youth, the language of encourage-  
ment hath been frequently extended in this our an-  
nual assembly, which with like opportunities with you  
we desire now to be manifested to them, and dear young  
friends may you consider it an important day, in  
which you may, and be persuaded to yield your heart  
in ready dedication to the divine word, and so you  
may obtain an attachment to the Bible in the truth,  
which will preserve you from doubts and doubts, and  
enable you to put your confidence in the alone helper,  
though surrounded at seasons with weakness and discour-  
agement, yet you will have to experience that in the  
Lord there is everlasting strength.

We have been favoured with the company of our  
beloved friends, "Hortia" South, the late Rev. John  
Haskins, whose gospel labours have been salutary to many  
and tending to strengthen the faith mind of.



With desires that we may be continued in your re-  
 membrance, when occasion is a service to be  
 of mercy, that the blessing of Providence may be ex-  
 perience, we conclude, and are your affectionate sister  
 signed in and on behalf of said meeting by

Charity Welch Clerk this year

To the Yearly Meeting of Women  
 Friends in London.

Dear Sisters

Notwithstanding the deep exercise of  
 this time experienced by a remnant amongst us who  
 being miserably hurried into the state of the Church  
 have become qualified to suffer for its sake, we have  
 been comforted in a renewed evidence of the working  
 of that love, which proceeding from the Father  
 and Fountain of Love, is felt to circulate amongst  
 the distant branches of his family to the refreshing &  
 strengthening of the feeble and those whose hands  
 through weariness and discouragement are ready to  
 hang down. And as the obvious deviations of many &  
 the interferences of others have been painfully affect-  
 ing to us an ardent desire hath been excited in some of  
 us that there both with you and in who are de-  
 vout of the prosperity of Zion may be more speedily  
 engaged to exert their own spirits to be thoroughly  
 reformed by the effectual washing of the water of re-  
 generation, and thereby be enabled to stand up to  
 let us have hands in supplication to the Father  
 & all our merits for the redemption of  
 her daughters from the state of captivity in which  
 many are yet sorrowfully held: so it thus becomes  
 the increasing travail of our spirits to receive re-  
 newed qualifications to labour in his vineyard, we  
 have faith to believe that his blessing brethren will not  
 be withheld, and that many who are now wandering



as in a state of alienation from the commonwealth  
of Israel will be brought to an acknowledgment of the  
beauty of holiness, and be an obedient surrender of  
their hearts to the purifying operations of divine grace  
involved in an heroic labour for the promotion  
of the great cause.

We have received accounts from the several  
Quarterly meetings constituting this and been encour-  
ed with some ability to lift into the state of security  
and though possibly affected by the vicissitudes  
incident among us we are encouraged in the hope  
that in each chapter there is a band of men  
preserved who are honestly engaged for the support  
of our Christian testimony in its various branches  
and that under the humbling influence of our tri-  
umphant many of the dear people are signing names  
and doing service in the church for the growth  
and encouragement of this class of the Society. We  
are situated we feel our spirits fervently engaged  
more they are relieved from shunning in the days  
of trial, perfectly remembering "that upon the  
Lord liveth he shall be chastized and scourged every one  
whom he receiveth."

We have been favoured at this season with  
the company of our beloved friends, Martha South  
and Jane Henson from Great Britain and with  
that of several others, several from various parts of this  
continent whose kind services have been fully re-  
freshing and strengthening to us. May the promise  
be ordered to the Father of every blessing, who in  
matchless language is still crying for his heritage, all  
deserving the former another letter from all an-  
nually and instrumentally.

Desiring that all our communications may be in  
the renewed feeling of perfect fellowship, with the re-  
cious evidence whereof some of our minds were comforted  
in the reading of your acceptable letter trusting that we  
are at this time favoured with a degree of fresh experience  
of its uniting virtue, we affectionately salute you and all  
signed in and on behalf of said meeting by  
Charity. Peter Clark his brother



At our yearly Meeting of Women  
Friends held on Rhode Island per New-  
England the 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> month 1798 to the  
1<sup>st</sup> of the same Inclusive

Met agreeable to the conclusion of last  
year and after a time of retirement and Instruc-  
tive communications proceeded to Business

The friends appointed to attend this Meeting  
as Representatives are for Rhode Island, Hannah  
Abdell, Abigail Greene, Sarah Hazard, Mary  
Pierces, Anna Greene, Elizabeth Buffum,  
Sarah Steer & Deborah Mowrey, for Salem  
Deborah Rogers, Elizabeth Burington, Sarah Cartland  
Betsey Burington, & Elizabeth Burington Jun<sup>r</sup>.  
for Falmouth, Anna Burington, Phebe Cobb  
& Esther Jones, for Sandwich, Mary Stocum,  
Sarah Barker, Rebecca Folger, Elizabeth Rodman  
& Lydia Rotch, who are present except Mary Stoc-  
cum, she being absent thro' Indisposition

Elizabeth Rodman is appointed Clerk for  
this year and Lydia Rotch assistant —

Our Beloved Friend Mary Rice being with  
us at this our annual gathering, produced a  
Certificate from the Monthly Meeting of  
Hartford dated the 6<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> month 1797 and one of  
concurrence from the Quarterly Meeting of Bed-  
fordshire & Hartfordshire the 18<sup>th</sup> of the same  
month, also one from the recent Day, Morning  
Meeting of Ministers and Elders held in London  
the 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> following in proof of their unity  
with her Ministry & near Sympathy in her



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religious concern to visit this Land & we think it proper to add that during her Voyage which was attended with unusual perils, she experienced a wonderful display of Divine protection and support through all, the remembrance whereof has humbled many minds present and induced them to ascribe greatness unto our God

Our Esteemed friend Elizabeth Foulke also attended this Meeting with a copy of a minute from the Monthly Meeting of Philadelphia dated the 25<sup>th</sup> of 5<sup>th</sup> mo<sup>th</sup> last expressive of their unity with her ministry and concurrence in her accompanying our beloved minister Friend -

Accounts from our several Quarterly Meetings with answers to the Queries were read in this - and altho' we believe there are in each Meeting a Remnant who are concerned for the support of the various branches of our Christian Discipline, the continuation of many deficiencies sorrowfully appear in our borders, on which divers pertinent ~~expressions~~ and seasonable remarks have been made & we desire may be profitably remembered.

This Meeting adjourns to meet again at the time our Men friends do - Met by adjournment at the 4<sup>th</sup> hour the Representatives present. We are informed that Rebecca Chase, Bathiah - Burlington, Keziah Burlington, & Lydia Mitchell, are appointed to the station of Elders.

An Epistle from the yearly Meeting of Friends in Philadelphia of the 9<sup>th</sup> mo<sup>th</sup> last and one from New York containing Instructive and encouraging advice were read to our satisfaction.



Transcripts whereof are directed to the Quarterly Meetings — Anna Hacker, Sarah Barker, Elizabeth Purington, Anna Greener, Abigail Robinson, Abigail Greene & Elizabeth Redman are appointed to write to our Sisters in Philadelphia & New York, also to collect a Summary of the Answers to the Queries & communicate such advice to the Quarterly Meetings as may appear suitable and owing to a future sitting of this —

Being informed that our New friends have appointed a committee to consider the propriety of discontinuing the public Meetings previous to the Quarterly, we appoint Deborah Davis, Ruth Shearman, Thankful Huprey, Mary Anthony, Abigail Austen, Anne Cobb, & Deborah Huprey to join them therein & report at a future sitting —

This Meeting adjourns to meet again as before: Met by adjournment at the <sup>8<sup>th</sup></sup> hour on Third day afternoon, The Representatives present —

An acceptable Epistle from our beloved Friend Mary Mitchell, conveying much affectionate counsel and advice, has been read to the satisfaction of many who are desirous it may be treasured up for our improvement — Also the London printed Epistle dated 5<sup>th</sup> mo 1797 has been acceptably read —

This Meeting adjourns to the time our own friends may meet —

On 4<sup>th</sup> day morning about the 10<sup>th</sup> hour Friends assembled, The Representatives are present

The Friends appointed produced a Summary which is as follows. It appears by the answers to the Queries that a considerable number



are concerned to attend all our Religious Meetings to guard against sleeping, & live in that love and unity that would distinguish them to be the followers of Christ. Our testimony respecting plainness, care of the Poor, & other branches of our discipline are pretty well maintained tho' not without exceptions in divers instances, on which account labour has been bestowed. They have also prepared Resolutions to the yearly Meetings of Philadelphia and New York, & an address to our quarterly Meetings, which were read approved & signed by the Clerk.

Charity Rotch and Lydia Rotch are appointed to prepare a Certificate for our beloved friend Charity Cook, & bring to our next sitting. This Meeting adjourns as heretofore.

Met by adjournment at the 3 hour the Representatives present —

The friends appointed produced a Certificate for our friend Charity Cook which was read approved & signed by the Clerk —

The friends appointed on the subject of discontinuing the public Meetings previous to the Quarterly Meeting, report they think best to refer a decision to another year, except leaving friends of Rhode Island Quarter at liberty to make such alterations in theirs as they may judge necessary for one year which was concurred with —

A Certificate on behalf of our beloved friend Mary Prior directed to the Monthly Meeting of Hartford in Hampshire and an endorsement on the minutes, witnessed by her companion Elizabeth Foulke have been read approved and signed by the Clerk.



whose Company & Gospel labours have been comfortable & refreshing to us thro' the course of this Meeting. The overshadowing wing having been measurably felt at Truro, we gratefully acknowledge it and desire to conclude under a renewal thereof to meet again if the Lord permit at the usual time next year

Signed in & on Behalf of said Meetg.

By Elizabeth Redman Clerk

From our Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held at Newport in Rhode Island by Adjournments from the 11<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>m</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of the same Month - 1798

To the Several Quarterly Meetings  
hence belonging -  
Dear Sisters

Having been favour'd once more to meet at this our annual assembly under a renewed sense of Divine regard mercifully vouchsafed to us herein, do we affectionately salute you; and inform that we have received accounts from our several Quarterly Meetings with Answers to the Queries whereby we are comforted to find there is a Remnant in



each Meeting who are concerned for the prosperity  
of Zion and the enlargement of her borders, with  
which ~~with~~ ~~replete~~ number many of our minds  
have been dipped into near sympathy and an  
ardent solicitude of soul hath been begotten

that man increase; for surely the Vineyard  
of the Lord is great and the faithful labour-  
ers engaged therein but few: let us dear friends  
be concerned to repair the breaches in our  
own that in future we may not have cause  
thus deeply to lament the various deficiencies in  
some branches of the family, as exhibited in the  
reports to this Meeting whereby it is evident  
an unwillingness to come under the govern-  
ment of Christ Jesus, is the source from  
whence ariseth so much inattention to the  
support of these Testimonies given us to bear.

But dearly beloved young Friends in whom the hope of the present age must depend for its future maintenance be willing we intreat you to devote the early part of your lives to the service of your maker, let not the false pleasures and allurements of the world divert you nor the failures and weaknesses of those more advanced; discourage you, but diligently attend to the inward teacher, Christ Jesus, who will first cleanse, sanctify and dedicate your Hearts by his holy disposing power, thus qualifying for usefulness in his Church; we are sensible many of you would be rendered vessels of honour in his House if a due submission and reverent attention to this glorious administration was



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experienced — This Meeting we think has  
been as large as usual, and the exercised part  
favoured to unite in a joint concern for the  
promotion of the cause of Righteousness, having  
had the company of our dear friends  
Mary Prior from Great Britain and  
Elizabeth Foulk from Philadelphia, with  
divers other friends from the Western Yearly-  
Meetings whose Religious labours amongst  
us have been Strengthening & Edifying —  
In unfeigned love we affectionately  
greet you and Conclude —

Signed in behalf of said Meeting

By Elizabeth Rodman Clerk this year  
— " — " —

From Our Yearly Meeting of Women  
Friends held on Rhode Island by  
adjournments from the 11<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>mo</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup>  
of the same Inclusive 1798 —

To The Yearly Meeting of Women  
Friends of Philadelphia

Dear Friends

Being permitted at this our Yearly  
assembly to experience a little of the creation  
of that food which refreshes the hungry  
and Thirsty soul, we are encouraged  
again to address you and under a feeling sense  
of our own insufficiency for the accom-



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ishment of any good work we have gratefully  
to acknowledge. The renewal of an evidence that  
his arm, who is justly called the mighty God  
& everlasting Father, is round about those whose  
whole trust is in him, that he is graciously dis-  
posed to minister to the various necessities of his  
adopted children, secretly sustaining in seasons  
when, for their refinement the light of his  
countenance may be veiled from the spiritual  
eye, and baptism into death become their por-  
tion - May every dispensation beloved Sisters  
be cheerfully embraced by you and us, which  
is designed by infinite Wisdom, to fit our dwelling  
where the heavenly dew remaineth long, for  
however humiliating to the natural part, may  
be our introduction to this experience, which is  
found herein, and an increasing qualification  
to move forward in the line of divine requir-  
ing - Thro' the arising of that love which  
seeketh to gather within the fold, I trust we  
we feel an engagement, to call upon those who  
are much unacquainted with the guidance of  
Israel's Shepherd, intreating them to make a  
surrender of their <sup>wills</sup> unto him, who can break all  
their bonds, and lead into a far more glorious  
liberty, than any to be enjoyed in the gratifica-  
tion of the vain mind. we believe there are  
many within your borders as well as divers  
among us who can set their Seal to the  
truth thereof, and would, that the testimony  
of such a cloud of witnesses, might induce  
others, to come and taste for themselves, Oh!  
dear



dear friends, how would this mark of wisdom dignify our lives, and crown with peace our latter end.

Your lively Epistle hath been read among us, we trust to the satisfaction of those who desire the encouragement of such portions of labor, whereby we may excite one another to love & good works —

The company and acceptable labors of our beloved friends Mary Prior from Great Brittain and Elizabeth Smith, from our City have been at this time cause of humble rejoicing to many minds, also that of divers Brethren from Neighbouring Yearly Meetings —

In the revival of Sisterly regard we conclude and are your friends

Signed in & on behalf of said Meeting

By Elizabeth Rodman Clerk, this Year —

From our Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held on Rhode Island by adjournments from the 11<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> mo to the 13<sup>th</sup> of the same Inclusive 1790 —

To the next yearly meeting of Women Friends to be held at New York  
Beloved Friends

Feeling our minds renewedly impressed with affectionate desires for the preservation of our Heavenly Fathers family, however different their attachments, or distant in out-  
ware



ward situation, we salute you and may say the perusal of your truly valued Epistle, <sup>1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>d</sup></sup> last has been much to the satisfaction of a remnant, who are desirous the instructive communications, united to the labour of dedicated Servants who are concerned to publish the Gospel of peace, may have the blessed effect of centering many to the pure principle within, by which alone we can hope to witness an increase of strength to press forward, towards the mark of the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus &c, thereby find a place of safe hiding. For indeed the day calls loudly for an individual engagement to rebuild the wall ~~and~~ and repair its breaches, that Israel may be gathered and the minds of a living remnant are impressed with desires the number may increase, who are concerned for the <sup>en</sup>largement of her borders, and however discouraging the prospect may appear some can experimentally say, there is help laid on one that is mighty, and may the example of those who have nobly turned their backs on the world, have an animating influence, on such, as yet know little of the redeeming power of the cross of Christ.

And dear Sisters we feel desirous the repeated encouragement particularly addressed to the beloved youth, may prove incitements to greater dedication of those Talents, in wisdom bestowed for the best of purposes —

We have had the acceptable company of our beloved friends Mary Duor and her com-



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Samuel Elizabeth Foulk & divers brethren  
from other yearly meetings whose Gospel  
labours have been truly comforting to us

With the Salutation of Love and  
desires that you and we may so dwell  
as to witness the Shepherd of Israel near  
for our preservation -

We conclude your friends & Sisters

Signed in & on behalf of said Meeting

By Elizabeth Rodman Clerk this year



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At a Yearly Meeting of Women & Friends  
held at Newport on Rhode Island for & in  
England <sup>from</sup> the 17<sup>th</sup> <sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> <sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month 1799

Met agreeable to the conclusion of last year.

The friends appointed to attend this Meeting are  
for Rhode Island Mary Anthony, Trilove Harris, Eliza  
beth Thurston, Deborah Mery, Lydia Smith, Sarah  
Wilber & Abigail Robinson, for Salem, Deborah Rogers,  
Thomas Nichols, for Sandwich Anna Gardner Mary  
Tucker, Rhoda Tucker, Deborah Davis, & Patience Austin  
for Falmouth Hannah Sleeper, Anna Hacker and  
Elizabeth Taber —

Charity Retch is appointed Clerk for this year and Lydia

Wicks a Sistant — at the opening of this our annual assembly, it has been  
earnestly recommended, to wait at Jerusalem until we are sent forth with power from on  
high, that we might experience a qualification rightly to enter upon the mission before us.  
Our beloved friends Rebecca Jones & Jane Snowden

attended this Meeting and produced copy's of minutes from  
the Monthly Meeting of Friends in Philadelphia, held for  
the northern District, the 28<sup>th</sup> of 5<sup>th</sup> month 1799, also our beloved  
Friend Ruth Anna Rutter presented a certificate from Exeter  
Monthly Meeting, the 24<sup>th</sup> of the 4<sup>th</sup> month and our beloved Friend Sarah  
Crespon produced one from the Monthly Meeting of Phila-  
delphia the 26<sup>th</sup> of 4<sup>th</sup> month 1799 all expressive of their unity  
with them as ministers and affectionate sympathy in their  
present undertaking

Accounts were received with answers to the Queries, from the  
several Quarterly Meetings by which there appears many  
hainful deficiencies subsisting amongst us in the vari-  
ous branches of our holy religion particularly in attending  
our religious Meetings and a want of a lively engagement  
when



when collected that would prevent the continued prevalence of a drowsy disposition; which having with divers other weighty matters been feelingly spoken to, it is concluded to endeavour to insert the substance thereof upon these minutes and transmit an extract to each of our Quarterly Meetings, that so the fragments may be gathered; The latter having a tendency not only to unfit the mind for the performance of acceptable worship and the enjoyment of the Divine presence; but also to bring death & darkness over our religious gatherings, on which account we have been tenderly admonished and encouraged to endeavour as much as possible on these solemn occasions, to center deep to the fountain of strength and in humble prostration of soul beseech the assistance of our almighty helper, under a persuasion, that if this exercise is maintained, deliverance will be witnessed in his own appointed time; -

But we have cause to fear, there are too many who can contentedly sit down, and suffer themselves to be taken in this snare, scarcely striving in any wise against it, or to have in remembrance the necessity of wrestling for a blessing, whereby this and all our other enemies would assuredly be put to flight; -

Love & unity is expressed to be measurably maintained, yet a want of that qualification which characterizes the followers of Christ is evidently felt, whereby there is cause of complaint, late bearing and late reports, even amounting to the very great injury of one another and the wounding of the precious cause of truth, we have had the numerous censures some clearly & some secretly pointed out to us, and friends encouraged to go to the parties concerned instead of reporting from one to the other, whereby a little spark may be kindled into a flame; -

The neglect of many Parents in a right education of the beloved youth, has also conspired to the exercise of the body and much do we desire they may be



favoured before it is too late, to consider the awful import of that query "what has become of those lambs, which were committed unto thy care in the wilderness."

We have likewise been recommended to extend our care respecting moderation, beyond those public occasions pointed out in our query, endeavoring to feel after the circumscribing power, truth, in dress, furniture and the various scenes of Domestic life, which would enable us more fully to alleviate the necessities of the poor, the situation of whom it has been fervently desired, may make suitable impressions on our minds, that they may not only be provided with food & raiment, but assisted in such business as is best adapted to their situations that those who are favoured with plenty, may be faithful stewards, relieving and visiting such in their lonely habitations, particularly those who are of the number of the Lords poor, poor as to the things of this world but rich in faith —

Remissness in seasonably dealing with offenders, hath been also affecting, friends are desired to feel after the consequences of such neglect and to be concerned to seek, for a qualification whereby they may be enabled rightly to discharge so important a part of our Christian testimony, with that judgment, and clearness of discerning, which is consistent with Truth & agreeable to our discipline —

Yet notwithstanding the low situation of times amongst us, we believe there is a remnant, concerned in each meeting, for the support of the precious cause, for whose encouragement and enlargement, the minds of the faithful have at this season been fervently sollicitous that so there may be enabled to make war in righteous acts, against the many pollutions of our day, —

We are informed that Elizabeth Thurston of Rhode Island



Island, Elizabeth Burdett of Salem, Elizabeth Livingston of Seabrook, Monthly Meetings are appointed to the station of Elders.

Sandwich quarterly Meeting informs that they have approved of the publick appearances of Lydia Rotch in the line of the ministry —

This Meeting adjourns to the 3<sup>rd</sup> hour this afternoon.

Not agreeable to adjournment, The Representatives present —

An Epistle from the Women's Yearly Meeting, held in London, also one from Philadelphia & New York, yearly Meetings containing instructive counsel, and affectionate encouragement, have been read to the strengthening and refreshment of minds present —

Lydia Rotch & Dorcas Brown are appointed to write to the yearly Meeting of Women Friends in London —

Elizabeth Gardner Abigail Lawton to write to our friends in Philadelphia, and Sarah Tucker Elizabeth Brown to write to the Yearly Meeting of New York.

There being considerable space between this & the next sitting our young friends in particular, have been tenderly cautioned against giving way to any disposition that will unfit their minds, for the reception of that Instruction designed for them — but dwelling in quietude under a consideration of the serious occasion on which we are assembled, they may be favoured with a lively sense of the benefit of these seasons.

This Meeting adjourns to the 3<sup>rd</sup> hour tomorrow afternoon. Near the hour appointed, friends assembled, the Representatives present —

Jointed Epistle from the yearly Meeting held in London by adjournments from the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> of 5<sup>th</sup> mo 1798 containing salutary & instructive advices, hath been read to



our satisfaction —

This Meeting adjourns to the 16<sup>th</sup> hour tomorrow morning.

Met on <sup>the</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> day morning near the hour appointed ~~for~~  
The representatives present the friends appointed produced Epistles to the several Yearly Meetings, which were read approved & Signed

An endorsement for the Certificates of our beloved friends with whose company we have been favoured, manifesting that their company & Gospel services have been acceptable & edifying to us have been read approved & directed to be signed. — Our young friends present have been tenderly counselled against the pernicious practice of visiting on first days of the week, & parents desired to restrain them therefrom to collect their families on those days and sit down quietly together comfortably believing that strength will be afforded if rightly sought after. to rest upon the Lord acceptably & thereby a renewal of strength & experience and as the scriptures may be usefully read at such seasons we earnestly recommend an attention herunto, to our Quarterly and lesser Meetings. as also the advice contained in the transcripts of Epistles transmitted with that of the General printed with sensible feeling at this season. the necessity of our being aroused to diligence & renewedly engaged, to seek after that ability, whereby our offerings may be rendered acceptable to the Lord our God —

(2) Notwithstanding the minds of the exercised have had largely to partake of the cup of suffering thro' the several sittings of this Meeting, yet we are comforted in believing, the Shepherd of Israel has been mindful of his people, touching the tears of divers, by the immediate operation of his pure spirit & fervent are our desires that the renewed favours experienced may be like bread cast upon the sea =



waters, to be found after many days, particularly among  
our beloved youth, unto whom the language of encour-  
agement has been eminently extended, under a subject  
sense whereof we conclude to meet again at the time  
appointed next year if the Lord permit

Signed in & on behalf of said Meeting

by Charity Welch Clerk

From our Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held at  
Saugus on their Island by adjournments from  
the 17<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>mo</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1799

To the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends  
of Philadelphia —

Dear Friends

Altho' some of our minds, are deeply sensible  
of the inefficacy of these communications, when actuated by  
no other impulse, than that of a customary form, yet  
having been favored at this season, to feel something of  
the uniting influence of that love, which breatheth for  
the welfare of the family at large, we are desirous  
of addressing you therein — The livingly  
engaged amongst us, have been remarkably convinced, that  
suffering is the allotted portion, of every devoted follower  
of the Lamb, and altho the plaintive language at times may  
be my God my host then forsake me more we  
encourage patience & abate, under every baptism from  
the Divine hand, which will tend to enter us in  
the valley of humiliation, the abode of safety  
wherein we are led to see that of ourselves we can do



nothing, and to crave the fresh extendings of holy help, esteeming it a favour, that we are permitted to suffer, with the spirit of our Heavenly Father crucified afresh —

The lukewarm, have been fervently exhorted at the present opportunity, to arouse from their dangerous slumbers, and the beloved youth affectionately persuaded to relinquish Ideal engagements for the more noble pursuits of permanent happiness, some of us feel most tenderly interested in the welfare of those wherever situated desiring that our peculiar privileges united with that powerful conviction which mercifully follows even our revelling steps, may not be extended in vain, and our hearts are made glad in the prospect that there are divers within the inclosure of our Society who are endeavouring to make an early sacrifice, asking from the fountain of strength assistance to cast all their Crowns as at the footstool of their Lord, may nothing prevent them from coming forth with brightness, for doubtless some amongst them by a constant attention to the inward manifestations of Grace, are designed to shine as stars of the first magnitude — And may none of you Beloved Friends in seasons of discouragement which may be permitted for the trial of your faith cast away your confidence, but steadfastly eye the Captain of our salvation who being touched with a feeling of our infirmities, is altogether able to succour and to save all those who put their trust in him, and graciously condescends at seasons to animate the humble dependant mind with this encouraging language "I have overcome the World." —

Your affectionate salutation of last Year has



has been read amongst us to our satisfaction, for which with the labors of divers beloved Friends from your Yearly Meeting may we render the tribute of gratitude unto him, who is still marvellously caring for the workmanship of his hands; we have also been favored with the company of our esteemed ancient friend Jervis Johnson from Ireland.

Desiring that the various members of our militant Church may be individually engaged to dwell near the source of Divine good, seeking with unwearied attention for the pure arising of the spring of life, whereby the requisite qualification for every service will be experienced, and the distinction happily discovered between the activity of creaturely wisdom, and the gentle intimations of Heaven's truth.

We conclude & are your affectionate Sisters

Signed in & on behalf of said Meeting By

Charity Welch Clerk this year

From our Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held on Rhode Island for New England from the 1<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month to 19<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1799

To the next Yearly Meeting of Women Friends to be held at New York

Dear friends

Renewedly feeling at this our Annual gathering that nothing short of experiencing the continued aid and assistance of Israel's Shepherd



will availingly qualify us for services in the Church  
The minds of a Remnant have been clothed with  
desires, to witness the arising of that pure hidden  
life, whereby our communications may be rendered  
salutary and refreshing, which we make acknowledge  
your acceptable Epistle was to us, and in a measure  
of that love, which wisheth Grace & Mercy & Peace  
to all do we affectionately salute you, much  
desiring the many favours conferr'd upon us may  
not be in vain. For as "Iron sharpeneth Iron  
and as the countenance of a Man his Friend" so  
doth Epistolary correspondences when preserved in  
the pure channel and under the Holy influence  
of that power, whereon our safety and preservation  
depends—

The precious encouragement contained in  
your Epistle excited desires that we may be more  
engaged to come up in faithfulness to Divine  
manifestation & requiring, for want of which not-  
withstanding the repeated labours which from sea-  
son to season have been conferr'd upon us, by the  
operation of Truth, upon the minds of dedicated  
Servants, and Hand maids, we may with blushing  
and confusion of face acknowledge the state of things  
amongst us is low, yet it is comforting to believe  
there is an exercised remnant who travail in  
spirit for the welfare of the flock and family, and  
though their cetera sit as in solitary places,  
and go mourning on their way, yet we fervently  
desire those of this class, both with you and us  
may



may be encouraged to submit, resignedly to every dispensation, which infinite Wisdom may see meet to allot unto them, in order to refine and prepare for more extensive usefulness in his Church.

It is no marvel dear beloved Friends, when we consider that under the law the vessels of the Lords House were to be made of pure gold. That our corrupt natures need much refining, nor is it cause of ~~any~~ discouragement to be brought under suffering when agreeable to Scripture Testimony "those whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every Son whom he receiveth."

We feel our minds earnestly engaged on behalf of the beloved youth that they by a willingness to submit to the gentle intimations of duty and calls of Divine love, operating in the secret of their minds, may be induced to make an early sacrifice, which we are confident is the most acceptable to the Lord. That being qualified for his service, they may be instrumental in supporting the cause of Truth with far more dignity than many of the present Generation have done, for want of yielding that obedience which is assuredly due to our Heavenly Father. We unite in desiring that the awful display of Divine power in the alarming visitations extended to your City & divers other places on this continent, may have a tendency to awaken our minds to the great necessity of using all diligence, to make our calling & election sure. We have been favored with the company of divers beloved friends from the Western Society, & others whose religious services have been truly comforting to us —

In a spirit of sister love we remain your friends Sisters  
Signed in the direction of this Meeting by

Harriet Petch Clerk this year



From our Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held  
on Rhode Island for New England by adjournment  
from <sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>mo</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1799

To the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends to  
be held in London

Beloved Friends

Some of our minds have been contrited  
at this season in the reading of your acceptable Epistle  
of last year, and ~~have~~ <sup>are</sup> sensibly that the uni-  
fying influence of Heavenly Love, is not limited by  
Sea & Land, but continues to circulate in the Hearts  
of the various branches of the ~~same~~ family, inspiring  
with a holy resolution, to endeavour to look beyond  
the things which are seen, unto those of eternal  
duration, that if happily we may know our  
abiding to be in him the Vine, ability may also be  
received to take sweet counsel together, & go up to him house  
in company, where a willingness is wrought to be  
instructed in his ways and teachings of ~~that~~ <sup>his</sup> awa-  
kened to witness above all our blessings his preser-  
vation & guidance in the paths of Judgment. —

We have sensibly felt on the present occasion  
the want of an enlargement of this number  
within our borders; whose minds being prepared  
by the one baptism, to unite in a fervent travail  
of Spirit for the arisings of life, would ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~not~~ <sup>not</sup>  
have been furnished with suitable arms, for  
the work of the day, and enabled to move for-  
ward in raising a standard against those  
things which stand our ~~in~~ <sup>in</sup> the



Heavenly Journey. — But notwithstanding this want of faithful burthen bearers the Lord hath had regard to the low estate of his People and given us to believe that he will continue to help with a little help and cause the exercised part of the Body, more fully to see the desires of their Souls and be satisfied — Whether this may be effected by his lengthened mercy or the turning of his hand in Judgment, we desire to leave to his allwise determination with submission leaving our finite apprehensions, Earnestly desiring, that the powerful awakening calls which are yet in great loving kindness extended may so operate in each of our minds as to produce such a renovation, therein, as would be the means of turning aside from our dwellings too righteous indignation.

How alarming dear Friends, is the recollection that it will be as vain for the formal Professors of the present day, as in those days which are just to cry unto the Heavens to witness to shut them from the wrath of the Lord God and the Lamb! Yet how many are continuing to evince by the language of conduct that they are not enough contemplating the solemn import of this and other Scripture declarations applicable to their states, nor, that under this sleep of death their condemnation stumbles not.

Oh! that the pleadings of the holy spirit may yet gain the ascendancy in the minds of these, both with you and us, before it be too late, that being quickened into life, they may not only



become victorious over our souls enemies but experience  
a qualification to join the Lord's devoted servants here  
on Earth under the encouraging persuasion that  
their names will also be written in the book of life.

We feel an earnest engagement that those among  
the rising generation who have wisely attended to the  
secret intimations of the inward monitor, and  
meekly committed themselves to Divine keep-  
ing, may steadily persevere in humble obedience  
there, and knowing, by firm and proven  
strength to strength to the comfort of their own  
souls the reign of the faithful.

Our ancient <sup>Valued</sup> friend Gerris Johnson from  
Vermont having lately entered the borders of  
New England is acceptably among us, which  
with the help afforded through the religious  
exercise of our beloved friend, beloved ones and  
that of our younger sisters from Pennsylvania  
are favours which we trust are greatly <sup>ful</sup> received.

In the revival of gospel love we desire  
to salute you & remain your affectionate  
Friends & Sisters.

Signed in by direction of said Meeting by

Charity Retch Clerk  
This Year



At Our Yearly Meeting of Women Friends  
held at Newport on Rhode Island for  
New-England the 16<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>m</sup> 1800.

Met agreeable to the conclusion of last year  
& after a time of retirement proceeded to business. -

The friends appointed to attend this Meeting are,  
for Rhode Island Sarah Fowler, Elizabeth Thurston,  
Abigail Greene, Hephzibah Harris, Sarah Northrup,  
Abigail Arnold, & Ruth Shearman jun<sup>r</sup> - for Salem  
Elizabeth Purinton jun<sup>r</sup>, Betsey Purinton, Hannah  
Collins & Martha Hanson - for Sandwich Patience  
Austin 2<sup>d</sup>, Sarah Howland, Anna Gardner, Lydia Brown  
& Elizabeth Rodman - for Falmouth Anna Hacker  
Phebe Cobb, & Sarah Crossman, all present except one  
who has given a satisfactory reason for her absence -

Elizabeth Rodman is appointed Clerk for this year  
& Mary Williams Assistant -

Our beloved friend Ruth  
Hallack attended this Meeting with a Copy of a Minute  
from the Creek Monthly Meeting held at Vine partners  
Dutchess County, State of New York the 10<sup>th</sup> of 4<sup>m</sup> 1800 -  
expressing their Unity & near Sympathy in her concern to  
attend this Yearly Meeting, & some other Meetings -

Our Esteemed friend Sarah Hull also produced one from  
the same Meeting, signifying their Unity with her accom-  
panying the before mentioned friend in her religious visit.  
which have both been read to our satisfaction.

We have rec<sup>d</sup> acc<sup>t</sup> from all the Quarterly Meetings, with  
answers to the Queries - wherein many deficiencies are exp<sup>re</sup>



which have sorrowfully affected the minds of ~~many~~ present.

And friends have been feelingly called upon ~~by~~ this time to unite in a lively engagement of mind, even those of an early age, that the weightiness of their spirits may be felt as a strength to those on whom the present work devolves; & we have been recommended to believe that a cheerful resignation thereto is most acceptable to the great Qualifier of his people, who in dispensing his gifts, designs they should become as a precious stone, that which ever way they are directed whether in silent exercise or clearly pointing to ~~study~~ expression they should prosper.

Some interruption of solemnity having arisen from going out of this Meeting, it hath given cause to doubt the propriety of the motive of divers now assembled - which we hope will excite many to make a profitable enquiry herein & prove a caution to all during our future sittings - for were we properly impressed with the importance of presenting ourselves at these solemn gatherings, having our minds centered in deep self abasement before the alone helper of his people, & being favored instructively to view our entire insufficiency for any good work, doubtless we should receive at His hand, precious memorials which on returning to our respective habitations, would convince the benefit derived from such opportunities -

An affectionate Epistle from the yearly Meeting of Women Friends held in New York from the 26<sup>th</sup> of 5<sup>th</sup> mo to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> inclusive 1800, containing many seasonable & weighty remarks, has been read to our satisfaction. Lydia Rotch & Ruth Shearman jun<sup>r</sup> are appointed to prepare an essay of an Epistle in reply thereto - Elizabeth Gardner, Lydia Weeks, Elizabeth Rodman, & Susanna Tenny are appointed to prepare essays of Epistles to the yearly Meetings of Women fr<sup>d</sup> in London & Philadelphia - - This Meeting adjourns



to the 4<sup>th</sup> hour this afternoon — Met by adjournment  
 the Representatives present — The subject of dividing  
 Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting having been opened before  
 us, it is thought best to appoint Deborah Davis, Lydia Ratch,  
 Lydia Brown, Sarah Ellis, & Lydia Hussey to unite with  
 the mens committee in attending to that service —

We are informed from Salem Quarterly Meeting that  
 Sarah Cartland is appointed to the Station of an Elder —

Also from Sandwich Quarterly Meeting that Lydia  
 Brown is appointed to that Station. —

This Meeting adjourns to the time our Men Friends  
 do — Met by adjournment on 3<sup>rd</sup> day near the 11<sup>th</sup> hour.  
 the Representatives present. — We have received a valuable  
 Epistle from the Yearly Meeting of Women friends in  
 Philadelphia held from the 25<sup>th</sup> of Nov to the 25<sup>th</sup> of the same  
 inclusive 1800 — which has been comfortable to us —

The committees have produced essays of Epistle to the Yearly  
 Meetings of London & New York, which ~~have~~ were read approved  
 & signed — This Meeting adjourns to the time Men  
 Friends may meet tomorrow morning —

On 4<sup>th</sup> day, Met by adjournment near the 10<sup>th</sup> hour, The  
 Representatives present, An essay of an Epistle to the  
 Yearly Meeting of Philadelphia hath been read approved  
 & signed. Anna Hacker & Lydia Ratch are appointed  
 to prepare endorsements for our beloved friends  
 Ruth Hallack, & Sarah Hull, whose company and  
 communications at this time have been instructive and  
 encouraging. A summary of the state of Society being  
 collected is as follows. It appears by the answers to the



Queries from the several Quarters that our studies for religious worship & discipline have all been kept up - yet it is apparent there is a remissness in many members in duly attending particularly mid week meetings, not all sufficiently guarded against a drowsy disposition - few exceptions of other unbecoming behaviour.

Various deficiencies appear in some Answers, yet it is encouraging to believe there is a number who have so availingly surrendered their hearts to the influence of Divine love as to become heavenly with its precious virtue, in a degree that truly characterizes them to be the followers of Christ; who labor to suppress evil reports in others and every disposition that would lead to open or private differences - We fear some Parents are not so weightily engaged in the education of their children as the importance of this circumstance requires, in endeavoring to guard them from the baneful influence of corrupting examples.

The practice of reading the scriptures in a collective capacity we think increases among friends - It appears that attention & relief is extended to the poor - Divers instances of disorderly marriages, & a prospect of many others taking place notwithstanding friends labor and care in those cases - Generally clear in the four succeeding Queries except some deficiencies in making wills. - some neglect in recording - & in regard to Certificates. - It appears that our religious testimony has generally been maintained by dealing with offenders, & placing judgment where it has appeared necessary agreeable to discipline, yet in some instances weakness is manifest. - A tender solicitude for the welfare of the dear youth with improved the minds



of some, & led them affectionately to address this class on various subjects, particularly the important one of Marriage & we hope there will be an increasing care with these to guard against letting out their affections on improper objects whereby many have been entangled in snare that has not only deprived them of the privileges of society, but plunged themselves & families into deep distress - And we are concerned, to recommend to our Quarterly Meetings, the necessity of more vigilance in the important duty of assembling for Divine worship; where this is neglected it is not to be expected the precious testimony in other respects can in any wise be supported to the honor of Truth; nor can those who are thus unconcerned feel the Qualification necessary, to train their tender Offspring in the nurture, & Admonition of the Lord.

A Certificate on behalf of our beloved friend Gervis Johnson hath been read approved & signed -

This Meeting adjourns to the 3<sup>rd</sup> hour

Met by adjournment, the Representatives present. The endorsements being presented were read approved & directed to be signed - The London printed Epistle hath been read containing much weighty & pertinent advice - That those who are not with us at this season, may not be wholly unacquainted with the exercise that hath been felt - The Clerk is directed to extract such minutes as are likely to be of ~~more~~ use, & forward with Transcripts of the Philadelphia & New York Epistles to the Quarterly Meetings - Under a renewed sense of the extension of Divine regard, we conclude, to meet again at the usual time next year, if the Lord permit -

Signed in & on behalf of the aforesaid Meeting

By Elizabeth Rodman Clerk this year



To the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends in London

Beloved Sisters

Altho' we are not favored with your Epistolary communication at this season - Under the influence of a degree of that love which unites the depending children of our Heavenly Father in tender solicitude for its increase, are desirous of being revived in your remembrance. - In again attempting the transaction of the important affairs of the Church in a collected capacity, we have sat under the painful conviction of a abundant weakness, sensibly feeling that the "wings of Lion do mourn," because so few rightly come up to her solemn feasts, endeavouring to have their minds deeply centered at the footstool of Divine Grace, patiently waiting for ability to ask that assistance which would most assuredly be afforded, did not the activity of the imagination frustrate the designs of our Holy Helper: But while we do not desire to shrink from the allotted portion of suffering, we are at times willing to take refuge in hope, that He who hath loved us, is still pleased to compassionate our manifold infirmities, & if thro' his abundant mercy we are preserved from utterly falling a prey to the attacks of our potent enemy, it will be cause of humble rejoicing.

Many of the younger Corps amongst us have been tenderly invited to lend the assistance of their spirits, in breathing for a renewal of strength: and inexpressible is the solicitude of some, that they may be rightly impressed with the importance of attending to our solemn gatherings, conscious that on them the work will in long devolve: we have heard thro' several channels of the pleasing prospect in your land, afforded by many of this description, on which account no doubt the Hearts of the Standard bearers have been more thankful. May those tender Plants be encouraged



to pursue the only object worthy of their solicitude, even the approbation of their Heavenly Father, who designs them to be as polished shafts in His Quiver; & in displaying his marvellous sufficiency to lead them to the perfection of holiness will deprive them of nothing that can availingly contribute to their present enjoyment — We have not at this time been favored with the company of so large a number of friends from Neighboring Yearly Meetings, as at some past opportunities; nor would it be cause of astonishment, if the feet of the messengers should for a season be turned another way; with such, a tender sympathy is excited in some of our minds, especially those from our Continent, who are now engaged for the promotion of the blessed cause within your borders, feeling affectionately solicitous that they may be enabled daily to draw their support from the fountain of purity, & by a deep attention to that voice which will never lead astray, be effectually preserved from every bait which the subtlety of our enemy is offered to ensnare the feet of those who are happily turned to run the ways of the Lords requirements. —

Thankfully acknowledging that "the whole stay of bread & of water" hath not been withheld at this season. — We conclude your friends & sisters. signed on behalf of our Yearly Meeting of Women friends held on Rhode Island from the 16 of the 6<sup>m</sup> to the 10 of the same inclusive 1800 Bp

Elizabeth Rodman Clerk  
this year

To the next Yearly Meeting of Women Friends in  
Philadelphia —

Beloved Friends

We are abundantly sensible of the insufficiency of all our attempts to promote the cause of Truth on



Earth, unless by an abstraction from all human dependence we are favored to center to the Gift placed in each mind, & feel the influence thereof to arise in some degree of dominion, which a remnant are desirous it may be our increasing concern to labor after, whereby we may derive some profit by these communications for precious indeed they are, when that pure principle is felt to be the motive that actualizes them; which many were sensible of on hearing your valuable spirit in this our annual assembly, which hath been as large as usual. — And altho, in much weakness & discouragement the query hath been excited, "by whom shall Jacob arise for he is small" — yet the Lord hath not forsaken but in wonderful condescension hath broken a little bread amongst us, to the rejoicing the hearts of his humble dependant children, who feeling his sustaining power, gratefully ascribe Honor & Praise to Him to whom alone it is due — And we sincerely unite with you dear Sisters in desiring that every abating dispensation may be so improved as to reduce creaturely wisdom & effect a willingness to cast all our care upon Him, who has declared, "it is the willing & obedient that shall eat the good of the Land;" & being sensible His promise, we Yea & Amen for ever — there is abundant cause to double diligence, that the great work of salvation may go forward in order to obtain the answer of well done: Which no doubt every exalted rational mind will earnestly desire at the solemn close, when all sublunary enjoyments will appear of little estimation in comparison of the prospect in view. — And for those whether aged, middle aged, or the beloved Youth, who have wisely enlisted under the sacred banner, accounting all things as dross that they may win Christ, desires have arisen to the Father of Mercies that they may be strengthened, invigorated, & encouraged to perseverance in their several allotments —

We have very acceptably the company of



several Friends from other Yearly Meetings —

In a measure of that love which wisheth the welfare of the whole family, we conclude & remain your friends & sisters. — Signed in & on behalf of our Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held on Rhode Island from the 16 of 6<sup>m</sup> to the 18 of the same inclusive 1800 by Elizabeth Rodman Cl<sup>th</sup> this year

To the next Yearly Meetings of Women Friends in New York. —

Dear Friends

Altho' we have not to rejoice at this time in the abounding of Heavenly virtue, but have cause to sit mournfully at the Well's mouth, on account of the smallness of the number among us who are concerned to be instrumental in rolling the Stone therefrom, that the Rock may be watered, we desire to accept with gratitude that portion which hath been handed even when as by weight & measure; for such is felt to be the excellency of its nature that the exercised mind chooses rather to be buried as it were in baptism than remain insensible of so precious an enjoyment: and believing it not only proves efficacious on these occasions in reviving the hope of the humble on their own accounts, but strengthens the minds of such to take a survey of the deficiencies in our society, and where the hedge is observed to be broken down which ought to preserve the family compact together, may these both with you & us, under holy direction, step forward with that innocent boldness which loving the Lord above all will inspire them with in the discharge of the several duties we are called upon to be engaged in.

Being it is not only in endeavoring to look we



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to ourselves, & beseeching the Father to cleanse <sup>us</sup> from secret faults, that we may expect to receive the appellation of faithful Stewards, & that none may indulge the unfeling inquiry, "Am I my Brother's keeper", but with fervency of spirit petition for increasing ability to become one another's helpers in wisely gathering into the safe inclosure those who have unhappily strayed there from; & while the loss which these thro' unwatchfulness have sustained, is viewed with deep regret by the exercised part of the Body, let those who are preserved in simplicity, & Godly sincerity "rejoice with trembling" and having your faces turned Lionward be encouraged to hold on your way in the belief that "in due time ye will reap if ye faint not."

The company of several beloved friends from your Yearly Meeting hath been very acceptable to us at this time, & their religious engagement ~~on~~ our accounts we desire may answer the end designed by Him who is yet caring for his People both immediately & instrumentally.

We have to acknowledge the reception of your Epistle of the present year which hath been read to our satisfaction & comfort: And with an earnest solicitude for our increasing union thro' an increase of Divine love & life, we conclude & are your friends & sisters

Signed in & on behalf of our Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held on Rhode Island from the 16 of 6<sup>m</sup> to the 18 of the same inclusive 1800. by

Elizabeth Rodman Clerk this year



At a Yearly Meeting of Women's Friends  
held on Rhode-Island for New-England  
the 15<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month 1801

After a season of solid retire-  
ment proceeded to business. The Friends  
appointed to attend this Meeting are, for  
Rhode-Island Quarter Sarah Hildes, Mary  
Anthony, Lydia Hicks, Luanna Almy and  
Sarah Wilber. for Salem Mary Benson  
Dorothy Rogers, Hannah Collins, Sarah  
Woodland & Elizabeth Burington. for Saut-  
wich Lydia Brown, Mary Tucker, Mary  
Barker. Mary Howland & Dorcas Gardner.  
for Weymouth Thankful Hussey, Rebecca Cobb  
& Rebecca Tobey who are all present.  
Lydia Hotch is appointed Clerk & Mary  
Howland assistant.

Our beloved friends Mary Gilbert & Ann  
Hillier being accountable with us at this time,  
produced certificates from Philadelphia  
for the Meetings held the 1<sup>st</sup> & the 5<sup>th</sup> month  
1801 expressive of the concurrence of Friends  
with their present visit, which have been  
read to our satisfaction.

The Letters with answers from our several  
Quarterly Meetings have been read & some  
seasonable remarks were made on the defici-  
encies which are evident amongst us:

Respecting the attendance of meetings we have



been reminded of the necessity of more attention  
 to this unquestionable duty & entreated to consider  
 what a small portion of our time is a father  
 in a week which we are called upon thus  
 to waste while many are separated from  
 their nearest ties & conversing months & years  
 in the service of our Heavenly Father, who  
 hath an undoubted claim thereon & will  
 reward the mind that is rightly exercised  
 in his presence, with an increase of that  
 life which is more precious than the increase  
 of earthly substance; and we feel earnestly  
 solicitous that all who have been indifferent  
 herein may be animated to greater diligence  
 that they may yet partake of the good things  
 which He hath in store for those who are  
 often found in the house of prayer; the  
 renewed consolation of these we are led to  
 crave, whether present or absent & of whatever  
 age or station in the family, that being  
 strengthened by drawing near together in  
 Spirit they may feel a willingness to extend  
 a visit & care over one another.



From the general acknowledgment of bowels  
 being somewhat given way to, we have  
 been recommended to avoid as much as  
 possible such portions of labor on meeting days  
 as may unfit the mind for entering into a  
 proper examination of its spiritual health,  
 likewise to guard against partaking of  
 fermented or spirituous liquors; that there  
 may be no outward obstruction to the perform-  
 ance of acceptable worship.

A disposition to communicate unfriendly reports  
 being observed by some of the answers to be  
 still alive, the minds of some in the present  
 gathering are sorrowfully affected therewith, &  
 we have been urged to consider its entire  
 inconsistency with that Christian spirit we  
 profess to be actuated by, which would lead  
 to the concealment of a neighbor's fault & not  
 endeavour to remove it, that in order rightly  
 to "love one another" it is our earnest desire  
 we may search our own hearts & strive to  
 keep them in balance with all diligence,  
 that becoming more abundantly clothed with  
 fervent charity, this & every spot may be  
 washed away which have in any degree dis-  
 torted the family depicted our garments & rendered us  
 unfit for the intended inscription of holiness.



to the Lord.

We have not discovered by the answers that friends are generally under a lively concern to preserve & restrain those desires that arise from the perusal of unprofitable books; and we fear the want of this exercise has left many young persons exposed to their unimproving effects, which have given a dislike to some simple yet improving publications, that might have seriously improved them, & procured solid satisfaction, which we believe many, very many can acknowledge they never derived from some they have been improperly captivated with; That it would be cause of rejoicing if such were now prevailed upon to dedicate their leisure hours to nobler employments, converse more frequently with their own hearts in stillness & let the purification of them be their necessary concern, with the study of those things which will increase their union with our Heavenly Father & their admiration of his wonderful works. Was this generally the case we believe they would be animated to become more acquainted with his mighty acts in ancient days recorded in the Scriptures of truth & gain such useful knowledge as



it would enable them to give an answer when  
enquired of concerning the Principles and  
Propose: hereby would they administer consola-  
tion to concerned Parents and Friends, afford-  
ing a prospect of usefulness to many around  
them.

Altho the necessities of the Poor are reported  
to be increased & considerably relieved, a concern  
hath arisen that friends in their respective  
places of abode, may so sympathize with those,  
as frequently to visit them in their state of neces-  
sities, believing that such would at times be  
refreshed thereby, & we have an opportunity  
of receiving a lesson of instruction, exciting to  
an endeavour, properly to estimate our superior  
natural Blessings, & may lead to a willingness  
to resign the vanities of life, in order to  
contribute more largely towards their comfortable  
accommodation.

It is painful to perceive the many continued  
deviations from good order in the solemn  
ceremonies of Marriage; on which account, an  
account expectation & warning have been  
addressed to them who amongst persons there.  
former that they guard against entering such  
houses, wherein they cannot reasonably expect  
to prosper either temporally or spiritually; and  
are encouraged to seek divine counsel in their



movement, that they may look with a degree of confidence for the blessing thereof to rest upon them.

The care that appears to be extended for the maintenance of our discipline in the disposition recommended is unqualified. We desire to encourage all friends to increase vigilance therein, that where it hath been greatly supported, we may consider its usefulness as to be animated to the proper exercise thereof in future.

This meeting adjourns to the third hour this afternoon. Met near the Bureau proposed, the Representatives present. We have received an acceptable Epistle from the young Meeting of Women Friends held in London the last year, one from Philadelphia held in the 4<sup>th</sup> month, & one from New York held in the 5<sup>th</sup> month of the present year, which being read is deemed to contain weighty counsel worthy of our attention, we desire it may be remembered to profit. Eliza<sup>th</sup> Gardner, Abigail Lunt, Lydia Brown, Alice Peck, Sarah Peck, & Hannah Jones, & Abby Furmington, Lydia Mills, Dorcas Gardner & Elizabeth Furmington are appointed to write to these young Meetings.

Our young friends who have given us their company have been truly entertained, &



ending the time between these sittings in an improper manner, & affectionately invited to keep in view the serious occasion on which we are drawn together, that if useful impressions are received they may retain the power of doing good.

This Meeting adjourns to the 4<sup>th</sup> hour tomorrow afternoon. Third day, met near the time adjourn'd to; the Representatives present.

The persons appointed to prepare epistles have produced one to the yearly Meeting of Philadelphia, and one to that of New York, which have been read, approved and signed. This meeting adjourns to the 10<sup>th</sup> hour tomorrow morning.

17<sup>th</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> day met agreeable to adjournment, the Representatives present. Transcripts of the Epistles which we have received this year being prepared for the use of our Quarterly Meetings, the Clerk is directed to forward them with extracts from these minutes relative to the answers sent up at this time. In consequence of a committee appointed last year to join one of our friends we have received the following report

"We the Committee appointed at last yearly Meeting to consider of the division of Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting &c have attended thereto, and most of us visited all the monthly meetings in said division together with the Quarterly Meeting: And after



endeavoring weightily to deliberate & consider thereof,  
it is our sense and judgement, that advantage  
may arise from the following division vizt. that  
the monthly meetings of Smithfield, Uxbridge,  
Bolton and Richmond be set off from Rhode-  
Island Quarterly Meeting, and that they constitute  
one by the name of Smithfield Quarterly Meeting,  
& that it be held as follows, vizt. At Smithfield  
the 5<sup>th</sup> day before the 2<sup>nd</sup> sixth day in the second,  
fifth, and eleventh months: and at Bolton the  
1<sup>st</sup> day before the 3<sup>rd</sup> sixth day in eighth month.  
And that when said meetings are held at Smith-  
field, there be no public meetings held there on  
that account. And that Rhode-Island Quarterly  
meeting heretofore held in Smithfield in the 10<sup>th</sup> month  
be held in Providence at the same time: it was held  
at Smithfield; and the other times of holding said  
Rhode-Island Quarter, be at the same times and  
places in which they were before held."

Smithfield the 10<sup>th</sup> of 10<sup>th</sup> month 1800

Signed on behalf of the Committee by

John Bailey

Sarah Ellis.

Which being read and accepted we appoint Lydia  
Wicks, Ruth Sherman jun<sup>r</sup>, Abigail Sawton and  
Phebe Brown to attend at the opening of Smithfield  
Quarterly Meeting in the 11<sup>th</sup> month next.

Being informed from the same meeting they have



appointed a committee to consider the subject of a Yearly Meeting School we appoint, Elizabeth Notch, Lydia Wicks, Mary Barker, Hannah Stearns, Lydia Smith, Thankful Hensley, Rachel Basset and Susanna Strong to meet with them between this & our next sitting.

This sitting adjourns to the 4<sup>th</sup> hour this afternoon. Smith day afternoon not agreeable to adjournment. The Representatives present.

Enclosures on the Certificates of our un-  
 -ed friends Mary Gilbert and Ann Mifflin have  
 been read, approved and signed, their company  
 and religious services among us being acceptable  
 & we trust edifying. From the appoint-  
 ment made in the preceding sitting we have  
 received the following report "We your committee  
 have solidly considered the subject refer'd to us  
 this morning, and are united in recommending  
 that the Yearly Meeting appoint a committee  
 to promote subscriptions throughout the Yearly  
 Meeting, to increase the School fund, at such  
 time & manner as they may think best, and  
 also to consider and give upon some eligible  
 place for establishing a Boarding School; with  
 such other plan for the promotion of the  
 object in view as may occur to them, & report  
 to our next Yearly Meeting their success and  
 progress therein." Signed on behalf



of the Committee. H<sup>rs</sup> Fletcher junior  
Lydia Hicks:

In consequence of an Epistle to the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends in London being read, was signed, but some alteration appearing to be necessary, Lydia Hicks is desired to assist the Clerk in doing it, agreeable to the manner directed, who is then to forward it as usual.

We may acknowledge that a comfortable intimacy hath at times prevailed, that the several sittings of this meeting, under the removal whereof we desire to conclude in hope, that every member which hath composed it, may come to our respective Habitations inquiring that hath been weightily recommended, as the cause of the True Life's being often so expressed in these gatherings, that if happily we may be individually assisted in future to diligence in business & purity of spirit, our meeting together next year, with the Lord's blessing at the usual time and place, may be more eminently blessed with the arising blessing.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting by  
Lydia Proctor  
Clerk to the meet<sup>g</sup> this year.



to the hearty action of Women in London

Dear Friends

Some of our minds at the present opportunity have been comforted on hearing your lovely Epistle of the 5<sup>th</sup> inst. of this year, and we again express our wishing you thro' this medium yet wish to be cautious of calling your attention from objects of greater magnitude, or withdrawing the spiritual Car of any individual from the more efficacious instruction of Divine Intelligence in the heart. Altho' we believe our Annual gathering is large as usual we cannot in a collected capacity rejoice in being enabled to greet the spirits of such as are on that Foundation where those who dwell in the life of Religion are above all things engaged to repair, yet we trust there are those amongst us who deeply lament the peculiar causes of trial in the present day; And the confident belief that the Will of the Father will never be permitted to fall, but from the various Nations and Kingdoms of the Earth there will yet be raised dignified supporters of it, is in seasons of painful anxiety as an Anchor to the tossed mind. But in the remission of a degree of holy gratitude some renewal of strength is gained. We come with humble thankfulness the continued forbearance, and compassionate superintendence of our Universal Parent.

We share with great satisfaction your acknowledgements of a number of hidden labourers who doubtless by the strengthening of their spirits are helpful in carrying forward the important work of the day with acquiescence in the



divine sight. Some of whom are perhaps much deprived  
 of the opportunity of uniting with the Body on these gene-  
 ral occasions in seeking for a renewal of strength & may feel  
 deeply regret the loss of such a privilege, yet we believe the  
 penetrating Eye of Him who with the solitary infant  
 beholds them in their retired dwellings and will not fail to  
 manifest himself as near to sustain & comfort the two or three  
 gathered in his Name as among the larger congregations of  
 the Church: may these there be enabled often to renew  
 their confidence in <sup>the</sup> sufficiency of his power to do all things  
 in them and for them to his own praise & their unspeakable  
 peace. The minds of individuals have been impressed  
 with a very affectionate solicitude that this exercised  
 number may be increased by the addition of those among the  
 younger classes of our Society who have widely deviated from  
 the simplicity & spirituality of our profession & for want of an  
 attention to the persuasive influence of the Blessed Monitor  
 within, have not yet shone with that brightness which their  
 Heavenly Father is waiting to clothe them with. These are  
 tenderly entreated to believe that a willing obedience to its dictates,  
 an entire submission to its refining operations would render  
 them increasingly amiable in the eyes of the judicious & procure  
 them that tranquillity of mind which they have never found  
 to attend their departure from what they know to be right. We  
 consider them so precious a part of the Heritage to be early resigned  
 we feel the need of their assistance in the Militant Church and  
 for their best welfare, their intimate acquaintance with the joys  
 resulting from early piety, our fervent aspirations are for them



before him whose tender mercies are over all his works

We conclude your affectionate friends & sisters.

Signed by direction & on behalf of said Meeting by

Lynia Cole to Clerk this day

L. C. The return of our dear sister Elizabeth to the town  
the church here & her presence in our midst  
hath been cause of comfort and thankfulness to many present.

To the next yearly Meeting of Women Friends to be held in  
Philadelphia

Dear Friends

Feeling we trust a measure of the animating  
influence of the love of truth which unites the  
exercise children of our Heavenly Father's family  
some of our minds are at this time attracted toward  
you, earnestly desiring that the spiritual warfare may  
be individually maintained by us and thro' renewed  
engagement to seek right for that strength which can  
alone enable us to become victorious such qualifications  
may be experienced as would render successful our attempts  
to repair the breaches which are evident amongst us.  
The view of these presents at seasons a painful prospect  
yet we believe it safe to conclude there are many who  
are endeavoring to accept & employ that right which is  
given in stepping forward thro' a crowd of opposition in order  
to be found faithful in the discharge of duty: and thus  
have no cause for dismay tho' on many accounts their  
walkings may often be encompassed as with sorrow in



the evening as it will most assuredly be succeeded by  
joy in the morning if obedience keeps pace with  
knowledge.

May such be animated to labor  
in their several allotments with humility & increased  
dedication that they may not only witness an abiding  
within the Holy Inclosure themselves but being  
fervently engaged on behalf of others may be  
comfortably to believe that the Father of Mercies  
will continue to have regard to his People & seeing  
the Harvest is great be pleased to send forth help from  
his Sanctuary & render them instrumental in gathering  
many more into his Vineyard.

Your instructive communication of 4<sup>th</sup> month last  
hath been refreshing to many minds & we feel a renewed  
obligation that however remotely situated are the  
members of the Christian Church an interest in  
each others spiritual welfare may thus continue to  
circulate thro' which we are enabled immeasurably  
to partake of your comfort in the cordial attentions  
of the beloved youth acknowledg'd to be evident during  
the sittings of your late solemnity. Some of our spirits  
kindly visit these & crave the increase of their  
heavenly treasure, which will prove their best adorn-  
ing & amply reward them for every transient enjoyment  
they have been made willing to resign.

Our present gathering appears as large as usual, &  
tho' an exercising season to the rightly concerned hath  
not been forsaken by the Heavenly President, but  
thro' his condescension the love of the humble is some-  
what revived & we are instructed to believe that if  
the mental Eye was enough fixed upon him all our  
wants would be supplied & we should have more



abundant cause to rejoice that we have been together.

In a degree of best fellowship we desire to remain your affectionate friends & Sisters.

Signed by direction & on behalf of our Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held on Rhode Island for New-England by Adjournments from the 15<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> mo to the 17<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1801

by Lydia Rolch Clerk  
this year.

P.S. We have been in good with the company of diverse friends from distant Yearly Meetings which has been truly acceptable.

To the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends  
at New York

Dear Friends

Notwithstanding the want of that spirituality which we profess is very conspicuous amongst us we may thankfully acknowledge the overshadowing of the King of Israel's shadow hath been immeasurably felt at this our Annual gathering; and on hearing your acceptable Epistle of 5<sup>th</sup> in last the minds of a Remnant have been drawn into new sympathy with the exercised amongst you, who under a conviction of the low state of Society may be mournfully sitting as at the Well's mouth which seems at times so closed that they are ready to conclude they shall never again be permitted to partake of the water of Life.



But may these be encouraged to hope that as they  
 patiently wait the issue of Omnipotent Help will  
 be extended in removing the peculiar obstructions  
 of the present day, and they in the appointed  
 season strengthened to arise with an invitation  
 to others similar to this - Come prove for yourselves  
 that the Lord is good; that he is disposed to spread  
 as it were a table in the wilderness, and open springs  
 in the desert for the sustenance of his hungry  
 depending Children.

We unite with you  
 in fervent desires for the progression of every blast  
 of the family Lion-ward, that none may reject  
 the offers of redeeming love, but that all by  
 a wise co-operation with its refining power may  
 be brought forth from every house of bondage,  
 and becoming strong in the power of Divine  
 Life be enabled to grapple with all hindering things  
 to the obtaining of that glorious prize which  
 we are called unto, remembering for our  
 encouragement that He is faithful who hath  
 promised that those who have not wavered but  
 endure to the end shall be saved.

The Company and Labors of divine friends  
 from other yearly meetings have been truly con-  
 solating and acceptable to us.

Signed in and by direction of our Yearly  
 meeting of Friends held on Rhode Island  
 for New England in adjournments from the 11<sup>th</sup>  
 of the 6<sup>th</sup> month to the 15<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1831

By Lydia Rollet

Clerk this Year -



At a Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held at  
Newport on Rhode Island, for New England  
the 1<sup>st</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> mo 1802 - After a short time of retire-  
ment & we trust humble intercession for strength superior to  
our own, proceeded to business - The Representatives  
from the several Quarterly Meetings constituting this, are,  
for Rhode Island, Ruth Shearman Jun<sup>r</sup>. Deborah Green  
Sarah Fowler, Eunice Brayton & Abigail Lawton. for  
Salem Deborah Rogers, Abigail Dame, Hannah Morrell,  
Hannah Collins & Hephzibah Newhall - for Sandwich  
Rhoda Tucker, Amy Greene, Merab Bunker & Eliz<sup>th</sup> Rotch.  
for Falmouth Eliz<sup>th</sup> Horton & Sibil Pope. for Smithfield  
Lydia Gates, Lydia Smith, Deborah Mowry & Eliz<sup>th</sup> Smith.

Three of whom are absent & sufficient reasons therefor  
presented - Eliz<sup>th</sup> Rodman is appointed Clerk & Lydia  
Rotch Assistant. We have been favored with an instruction  
encouraging Epistle from the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends  
held in London 5<sup>th</sup> mo 1801. also from Philadelphia & New York  
of the present year, containing lively & pertinent advice which  
we desire may be profitably remembered - Lucy Green  
Sarah Barney, Hephzibah Newhall, Lydia Rotch,  
Hephzibah Harris, Eliz<sup>th</sup> Rotch Jun<sup>r</sup>. Abigail Arnold, Dorcas  
Brown, Mary Barker & Mary Rotch, are appointed to  
prepare essays of Epistles to the corresponding Yearly M<sup>t</sup>.

We are informed from the Mens Meeting, they have united  
with, proposal from Smithfield to hold one of their Quar-  
terly Meetings at Leicester in the 5<sup>th</sup> mo. preceded by a Meeting



for Worship, which has our concurrence. — This

Meeting adjourns to the fourth hour. — Met by adjournment, the Representatives present that attended this Morning. We have rec<sup>d</sup> acc<sup>ts</sup> with Answers to the Queries from all our Quarterly Meetings, which have been read, & much weighty advice communicated. — We are informed from Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting, that Susanna Army & Eunice Brayton are appointed to the Station of Elders. And from Sandwich that they have approved the public appearances in the Ministry of Dorcas Gardner & Mary Barker, & appointed Elizabeth Rodman to the place of an Elder. — Abigail Green, Alice Rathbon, & Elizabeth Smith, are appointed to collect a summary from the Answers & bring to a future sitting.

This Meeting adjourns to the 10<sup>th</sup> hour tomorrow afternoon.

Met by adjournment 3 day afternoon near the time proposed. Representatives present that attended the preceding sittings. The Committee have produced Epistles to the Yearly Meetings of London & New York which having been read & approv<sup>d</sup> are signed by the Clerk. —

This Meeting adjourns to meet at the time our Men friends may tomorrow morning. Met near the 10<sup>th</sup> hour the representatives present that have attended heretofore. —

An Epistle to the Yearly Meeting of Philadelphia hath been read approv<sup>d</sup> & signed. — We have at this Meeting, had the company & partaken of the religious labors, of our beloved friend Martha Prouth who having removed from England within the limits hereof, we desire to set a proper value on the addition of an exercised Member. The friends appointed have produced a summary which is as follows.

A Slackness continues in that important duty



of attending Meetings, particularly in the middle of the week. There appears a number amongst us who are concerned to maintain love & Unity, such, are careful to avoid detraction but in these respects all are not sufficiently exercised to bear our testimony faithfully. A care rests on the minds of many to educate their Children & those under their direction in plainness, & to guard them against reading pernicious Books. — The Holy scriptures are read in most friends families.

Intemperance generally guarded against — Disorderly company keeping continues to prevail in our Society; Altho it appears there is a lively concern existing in many who are endeavoring to fulfill their important charges faithfully in these respects. — The circumstances of the Poor are inspected & their necessities measurably relieved; their children generally partake of learning — none placed from among friends — A B. School kept. — Care is generally taken that offenders be dealt with in the spirit of meekness, & that judgement be placed where it appears necessary. —

The exercised part of this our Annual Gathering being deeply affected in observing the continuance of many deficiencies in the answers to the Queries, particularly a neglect of the attendance of our religious Meetings, we are desirous a release of that year may be sought after, which would excite to greater exertions in performing the solemn duty of spiritual worship, preserve from yielding to dissipation, and have a tendency to guard our youth from all unbecoming behavior. The obvious inconsistency of detraction with the high Profession of Christianity has been clearly pointed out. How much more should the truth of human nature be made known.







Miss Smith, Deborah Morey, Rachel Basset and Lucy Greene, are chosen to attend to the business. And if the Quarterly Meetings, under a lively concern for promoting the object in view, should think best to make an addition they are at liberty to do it.

However important it appears that this establishment should be obtained, we feel solicitous that friends in their respective Meetings may not abate their care towards those of less magnitude, but endeavour as far as possible to promote the desirable end of Education thro' every proper channel.

The Clerk is directed to extract the preceding Minute respecting Schools, the remarks and advice, on the deficiencies apparent in the answers, and forward, with Transcripts of the Epistles received, to the several Quarterly Meetings.

We may gratefully acknowledge that we have been favored to become measurably cemented together in the circulation, we trust, of pure love; and feeling it to be like the dispensing of the best wine at last, under the influence thereof we desire to conclude — To meet again if permitted next year at the usual time and place.

Signed in and on behalf of said Meeting by

Elizabeth Johnson Clerk



To the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends  
held in London.

Beloved Friends

We trust the acknowledg-  
ment may with gratitude be made that many  
minds have been favored to feel a degree of the  
baptizing influence of best loves on hearing your  
acceptable Epistle of last year; And we are de-  
sire that the instructive observations, thus  
proceeding from the pure spring of Divine Life,  
may animate us to aspire after an increase of  
religious sensibility; fully believing that much  
benefit would arise from an individual con-  
cern; to remember, that presenting our bodies  
at these our Annual Gatherings, unaccompanied  
by such engagement of spirit, will not only  
frustrate usefulness in the Church, and produce  
death in our own minds, but cannot fail to  
occasion the additional suffering to those living  
members, whose prevailing wish is to be com-  
prehended in the declaration of Christ, "Where  
I am, there shall my servant be also".

Our feelings are afresh affected in  
assenting to the too evident truth, that many in the  
present day who have been designed to become as the  
precious Sons and Daughters of Zion, eminently blessed  
by nature, & <sup>who</sup> co-<sup>working</sup> with the grace afforded them,  
might have dignified the name of Religion by the  
excellence of their lives, invited others to aspire  
to the standard thereof. Yet thus the subtilty of an un-



wearied enemy, have so sorrowfully forsaken this  
Holy Principle, which they have once known and  
loved, as now to be cause of stumbling, in the way  
of others, who are seeking an acquaintance with  
their only ultimate Good. But consoling is  
the evidence that a number is yet preserved who  
are endeavoring to prove themselves faithful  
to some of our dear friends, and in the  
painful circumstances, tend to increase our per-  
event solicitude, our tender & vigilant care over  
those, whose only germ may present their present  
appearance on the stage of action. May that wis-  
dom which is capable to direct amidst the most  
scattered, so to impress on the susceptible minds of the  
precious Plants; the principles of piety, the preservation  
love & fear of their God, so teach them to understand  
the gentle monitions of his Grace in the heart; that  
nothing may be wanting on the part of such dele-  
gated Shepherds to prepare the way for a happy  
succession of Testimony Bearers.

We desire to salute you  
in the fellowship of the Gospel and remain  
your affectionate Sisters. Signed in & by  
of the aforesaid meeting by Eliza C. Johnson, Secy.  
To the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held in Phila.  
-delphia

Dear Friends

Being afresh convinced at this season  
that the Divine Word hath been near for the help of  
those who are endeavoring to gather under its shadow  
and are anxious to be brought to a  
state of preparation to accept with thankfulness that  
which Infinite Wisdom may see meet to dispense.



But for want of a more general engagement of Spirit to receive the offers of His Love, we have had painfully to feel the loss sustained thro' our several sittings; that the minds of the rightly exercised are led to covet, all who compose our Annual Gatherings were so situated, that the gracious intentions of the Most High to do his people good, might not be frustrated, and our rejoicing in his presence be turned into mourning because too many are satisfied with an outward profession, instead of laboring after that purification, which would enable us to approach his Altar with acceptance, and seal upon our minds a consoling evidence, that altho' Heaven is his Throne, He regardeth the secret dwellings of his abased Children, is disposed to lead them safely forward, and give unto them the joys of his Salvation.

We are led to hope there are many in your borders, who having submitted to the operation of the purifying Tower, are separated from former delights, and have become increasingly attached to the house of God, whom we desire to meet on their Heavenly journey. And altho' the sacrifices required at some of their hands, may at seasons appear greater, than the resignation of the natural life, we rejoice in the belief that some of these, tho' divine aid, will move forward in the way of true and unfeigned spirit, supporting the human will, and that with genuine love words will animate others to pursue the same path, seeing it is not attended with that gloom, which the inexperienced mind is too apt to imagine, the effect of a life of Piety.

We observe your remarks, exciting to an increase of attention towards obtaining for those under our care, a guarded Education, and can feelingly unite in belief that it would be productive of extensive blessings in our Religious Society. We may add the expression of hope, that the subject is gradually gaining a place in the minds of Friends, somewhat proportioned to its importance.

The reading of your lively Epistle of the present Year hath administered to us instruction and encouragement. And we trust, gratitude hath measurably arisen







To the Quarterly Meeting of Women Friends held in New York

Dear Friends

We have thro divine goodness

been again favored to meet in this our Annual Assembly, and notwithstanding there remains to be much cause for mourning on account of the many deviations from that simplicity and spirituality, which the principle of Truth would lead into, yet a remnant have felt their minds engaged to the service of the Lord, and the cause of the oppressed.

have at this time been made renewedly to experience, that the Lord's Arm is not shortened, neither is his Ear grown heavy, but is still mercifully disposed to hear the intercessions of his supplicating servants; and to bestow with a portion of his heavenly Presence, all who put their trust in Him alone, and are given up to serve him with full purpose of heart.

May these both with you and us, be encouraged to hold on their way, although trials may appear on the right hand and on the left, believing that He, in whom is unshaken strength will not fail to be their support in the time of need, fulfilling in the present day as in ages past, to his humbly dependant and devoted Children, the gracious promise left on record - "Lo, I am with you alway even unto the end of the world."

We may with satisfaction acknow-

ledge the result of your assembly it yielded the presence of which was salutary to many minds, affording a com-

fortable prospect that there are among the many who are wisely choosing an early submission to the cross of Christ. May this class in your borders and in ours be animated to increasing faithfulness, accounting nothing too near or dear to part with to obtain the reward of peace.

Then, may we hope for a succession of witnesses, blessed who will be enabled nobly to come forward and evince to the world on whose side they are.



In the love of the Gospel we again salute you and wish  
your nearly united friends are united.

Signed on behalf and by direction of the aforesaid Meeting

By Elizabeth Rodman Clerk this year.

At a Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held  
on Rhode-Island for New England the 1<sup>st</sup> of  
the 6<sup>th</sup> month 1803.

After a short season of retirement proceeded to Business. The friends appointed as Representatives  
to this Meeting, are, for Rhode-Island Quarter, Sarah  
Foster Susanna Barker, Abigail Crocker, Abigail  
Greene and Mary Williams. for Salisbury Jane Gore.  
Sarah Carthage Betty Swinton and Mary Clappam.  
For Sandwich Rhoda Barker, Elizabeth Rodman,  
Elizabeth Barker and Lydia Brown, Lydia Greene,  
and Martha Gifford. For Acamouth Abigail Wilson,  
Anna Barker and Sarah Soulewick. For Smithfield  
Anna Thornton Rachel Fay, Lucy Greene and Lois  
Shove. who are present except three, for whose absence  
reasons were rendered and accepted. The subject of  
choosing a Clerk and an Assistant, being considered in  
this Meeting, Lydia Rotch and Mary Williams are ap-  
pointed for the present year.

A certificate from Crosshairs Monthly Meeting in Penn-  
sylvania held in the 4<sup>th</sup> month last, on behalf of our  
beloved friend Martha Simpson expressing her  
being a Minister in good esteem, and of their unity with  
her present visit, hath been acceptably read.

A copy of a Minute from New York monthly meeting  
in the 5<sup>th</sup> month last, on behalf of our beloved friend  
Elizabeth Sykes expressing their anticipation of her  
intended visit in these parts, hath also been presented  
and read. The minutes from our Quarterly Meeting



more was said at this time; likewise the first Query  
and the answers thereto. We are inform'd from  
Rhode Island Quaker that they have approved of the  
public appearances in the line of the Ministry of  
Abigail Swanton and of the appointment of Mary  
Seckham to the station of an Elder, from Salem  
Quaker that they have approved of the public appear-  
ances in the line of the Ministry of Betty Christian.  
Mary Chase and Elizabeth Board. That Smithfield  
Quaker have approved the public appearances in the  
Ministry of Mary Southwick and Lydia Fry, and  
approved Lydia Gates to the station of an Elder.

This meeting adjourns to the 4<sup>th</sup> June this afternoon.  
Second day afternoon, met near the time proposed.  
The Representatives being call'd are present that first  
attended. The remaining Queries and Answers were  
read, and some brief instructive remarks made on the  
interesting subjects. Therein spread before us, which we  
would gladly hope have so impressed many of us, as  
to be frequently recur'd to at our respective places of  
abode, that the concern of divers exercised minds, may  
not be manifested in vain.

It being apparent that we have so easily neglected  
attending our religious meetings, we have been reminded  
at this season of <sup>the</sup> difficulties encountered by our Prede-  
cessors in performing this duty, accompanied with  
various trials but we are so induced to have our  
souls and our names in the Church who can help and  
also can blast as the sixth meet. That being animat-  
ed to present before him a reverent humble heart,  
we may witness a renewal of strength, and return to  
the necessary care of life with the convincing evidence  
that we have done what we could in performing our  
religious service. That our prayers and efforts  
we are induced to believe would procure a more exten-



Blushing upon Families than many have yet experienced or even had an idea of.

On account of the want of the prevalence of that Law which is the Range of Discipleship, we have been very feelingly admonished to enter into an examination of the state of our own minds, and if any of the various infirmities that of us happily overcome, to let the remembrance of the wormwood and the gall which have been tasted, silence a disposition to scrutinize, and censure the failings of others. And this examination would probably tend to invest us with a portion of that Charity which seeketh with compassion to cover, and to endeavour to remove them.

Affecting hath been the consideration that there remains so great a galling weight, not only of the attainment of that excellency we are professing to aspire after, but also of attending to the whole some rules we are enjoined to adhere to; notwithstanding the various means made use of, to shew us the necessity of coming forward, and keeping our stanks in Righteousness. That the Query hath arisen "What could have been done more to my Vineyard, that I have not done in it?" And we have been called upon to endeavour to arise from that state of Languor which is so offensive in the sight of Infinite Purity, and hath long frustrated His gracious designs respecting many who doubtless might have been at this day, as Pillars in His House. But we are ready to revive these may yet know a living quickness into life, by looking unto Him for help, who hath all Power, and is waiting to cause the barren mind to become as a fruitful field. For the accomplishment whereof, our fervent aspirations are offered on behalf of every Child in the Family.

Lysida Hicks and Susanna Barker are requested to prepare engagements for our friends Martha Simpson and Elizabeth Seyd. This meeting adjourns to the 10<sup>th</sup> hour tomorrow morning.

Third day, the 14<sup>th</sup>, met near the time adjourn'd to. We have been favoured with a lovely Epistle from the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held in London in the 5<sup>th</sup> month.



Also one from Philadelphia, and one from New York,  
of the present year, which have <sup>been</sup> read to our comfort &  
edification. Elizabeth Hanson, Ruth Davis, Lydia  
Wicks, Abigail Greene, Mary Barker, Elizabeth Gann  
senr, Lydia Brown, Elizabeth Welch junr, Anne Ellis,  
Mary Welch, and Mary Williams are appointed to  
prepare essays or Epistles to these Meetings and pro-  
duce at a future sitting of this. Betsey Perinton  
and Susanna Barker are desired to collect a summary  
from the Answers to the Queries to be recorded.

The printed Epistle from Simon, containing much  
reasonable advice and caution hath been read to our  
instruction and edification. This Meeting adjourns to  
the 10<sup>th</sup> day tomorrow morning. Fourth day the 16<sup>th</sup>  
met by adjournment the Representatives being called  
are present. The friends appointed, have produced  
essays or Epistles to the corresponding yearly Meetings,  
which have been read, and some alterations made, were  
approved and sign'd. This Meeting adjourns to the 4<sup>th</sup>  
hour this afternoon. Fourth day afternoon met agree-  
d to adjournment, the representatives present. The  
friends appointed have produced an endorsement for  
the Epistle of our beloved friend Martha Simpson,  
also one for the Alliance of our beloved friend Elizabeth  
Lydd, which have been read, approved and sign'd,  
their company and religious exhortation amongst us  
have been very acceptable. The friends appointed  
have prepared a summary which is as follows.

It appears by the Answers to the Queries that all our  
meetings are kept up (except in three instances which  
are under friends care) and are attended by the greater  
part of our members; the deficiencies are obvious, particu-  
larly in the middle of the week; the hour generally observed.  
On account of sleeping and other unwelcome behaviour some  
care has been taken. Love and unity inexpressably sub-  
sists amongst us, the want of that which characterises the  
followers of Christ; Detraction not enough discouraged



by all. Where differences have arisen, care hath been bestowed to end them. There appears to be a care with many for the right education of those entrusted to them, and to be exemplary themselves; tho' deviations are apparent, and a disposition to read pernicious books too much indulged; and the corrupt conversation of the World not enough guarded against. The Holy Scriptures are read in most families. Mostly careful to avoid the unnecessary use of spirituous liquors, moderation & temperance mostly preserved, where it hath been otherwise advice hath been extended, also a care towards the Poor, & their necessities measurably relieved. Several instances of disorderly company kept in which are under notice. Some deficiency in regard to Wills, as also in records. There is a care to deal with offenders in the manner prescribed, altho' some delay is expressed. Judgement appears to have been generally placed where necessary according to our discipline.

The Clerk is directed to extract from the Minutes those Paragraphs relative to the remarks made upon the answers, and forward them with transcripts of the Epistles received this year, to our Quarterly Meetings.

Having been favored to feel a comfortable degree of solemnity to attend several of our sittings, we desire to conclude with profitable impressions of our unwearied labors, the benediction continued to us, intending if permitted, to meet again next year at the usual time and place.

Signed on behalf of said Meeting by  
Lydia Smith Clerk.











To the next Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held  
in London.

Dear Friends

Your instructive Epistle of last Year,  
hath been acceptably read amongst us, and altho' some  
of our minds are peculiarly sensible of that abundant  
communication with our beloved fellow-members of the family  
at large, but would rather dispose us to the silent-  
contemplation of our own standing in the sight of  
Omniscience; yet we are unwilling to deprive our-  
selves of any benefit that may result from the con-  
tinuance of spiritual communion.

Our number at the present gathering  
is nearly as usual, the extendings of Divine influ-  
ence, and the preservation of religious solemnity have  
been evidently offered for our benefit, in the terms  
of pure wisdom; But for want of this, there  
is a great deficiency of it often, and  
we too regardless of the necessity of breathing for  
that sanctifying aid, which would enable us justly  
to ascribe to God the glory of all our mercies  
and those of human nature, which proceeding from  
our different dispositions, and variously transjourned  
are very liable to be lost from that Divine Spirit  
that would conduct us in the paths of holiness.  
But notwithstanding the many mercies which







some express the elevation of his spirit, and may  
that <sup>may</sup> encourage us to strive to be faithful in his  
and his inspirings which penetrate the inner recesses  
of the heart, and send forth the eye of the mind  
on this occasion to see Jesus in a quiet solitude  
who can inspirations of such power as a gift offered  
for the descending of that blessing which brings us  
then; then the joy to write in celebrating the power  
and goodness of the Most High who giving us a power that  
we are an Advocate with Him, and with a power of  
inspiration, and grace in offering the power of  
spiritual gifts, and the power of the Spirit to be over and over  
in the, and the prostration of every faculty of the mind  
in the Spirit.

... the power of the Spirit to be over and over  
in the, and the prostration of every faculty of the mind  
in the Spirit.

... the power of the Spirit to be over and over  
in the, and the prostration of every faculty of the mind  
in the Spirit.











to our meetings, the unity of our Association; "by that our  
unity is preserved, and our power is increased." The  
power of our Association is established in us.

Altho the night is increased among us at this our Annual  
Meeting, yet we may thankfully acknowledge, the attention of  
our regard have been mercifully felt, & in the ability to see  
the glorious Cause, hath been excited, and we encourage  
"Order Jerusalem above our chiefest joy."

We have had the company of several Brethren, & Sisters & our  
meetings, which with their labors have been  
acceptable to us. In sisterly regard we conclude  
to affectionately bid you farewell. Signed in and on behalf  
of said Meeting by Lydia Rotch clerk Hope

At a Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held on  
Rhode Island for New England the 11<sup>th</sup> of 1<sup>st</sup> month  
1804.

Not agreeable to the conclusion of last year, and after  
a season of retirement proceeded to Business.  
The friends appointed as Representatives are, for Rhode  
Island Quaker, Abigail Sauton, Sibyl Reynolds,  
Ruth Langston, Hannah Dennis, Sarah East and  
Miriel Arnold. For Salem Deborah Rogers,  
Betsy Purinton, Ruth Himes & Hannah Coxson.  
For Concord, Eliza Smith, Bethiah Russell, Lydia  
Brown, Rhoda Garland & Eliza Leland. For  
Salem, Hannah Hays, Lydia Himes, and  
Franklin Hays. For Smithfield, Patience East,  
Lydia Smith, Eliza Southwick & Deborah Hays.  
All present. The subject of choosing a Clerk and  
Assistant being before us, Mary Rotch & Abigail  
Arnold are appointed for that service.

A Certificate from Friends in this meeting,



Pennsylvania held in the 5<sup>th</sup> mo last, on behalf of our beloved friend Martha Simpson, expressive of her being in harmony with good ideas, and of their unity with her present visit, hath been acceptably read.

Our Beloved friend Ann Alexander, now on a religious visit to this Continent, hath produced a Certificate from the Yearly Meeting of Woodbridge in County of Suffolk, Great Britain, and also from the Yearly Meeting held at Ipswich. Also one from the Yearly Meeting of Ministers & Elders in London, all dated in the year 1803, expressive of their unity with her as a minister, & their affectionate sympathy in her present arduous engagement. Which have been read to our satisfaction and comfort.

We have also the acceptable company of our beloved friend Eliza Coggeshall from New York.

An instructive Epistle from the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held in London in the 5<sup>th</sup> mo 1803, also one from Philadelphia and one from New York of the present year have been read to our edification. Susanna Barker, Elizabeth Gardner, Anna Weston, Ann Coulbourn, & Est. Rodman Salience & Carl Lydia Smith and Betsey Merriam are appointed to consider the propriety of preparing Epistles to those Meetings and produce the result thereof at a future sitting.

We adjourn to the 4<sup>th</sup> to have this afternoon. All are united to adjournment. The Representatives present.

The Accounts from our Quarterly Meetings have been read likewise the Queries with answers thereto. We are informed from Rhode Island Quarter that Abigail Greene is appointed to the station of an Elder, and from Connecticut that they have approved of the public appearance in the line of the Ministry of John S. Davis, and appointed Gadadiah Barney to the station of an Elder.

Eunice Mitchell and Sarah Pils are desired to collect a Summary from the Answers to be recorded. The subject of reading the Queries has been feelingly opened at the present sitting, and having claimed the serious attention of many minds. Sarah Robinson and Elizabeth



are requested to propose it to the Genl. Meeting for <sup>their</sup> consideration. Being informed from their Meeting, that they have chosen a committee to consider the General State of Society (including the subject of the Ladies Church Boston) Debe Brown Eliz<sup>th</sup> Rodman Mary Williams Abigail Lawton & Lydia Child are appointed to unite with them therein.

Abigail Greene, Mary Williams, & Eliz<sup>th</sup> Rodman are requested to prepare an endorsement for our friend Martha Simpson and a certificate for our friend Sam<sup>l</sup> Alexander. Adjourned to the 11<sup>th</sup> hour tomorrow morning.

Third day the 12<sup>th</sup>. Met near the time proposed. The congregation present except one who is engaged on a journey. The previous resolutions have prepared a summary which is as follows. "It appears by the Answers to our Queries from the several Churches, that our Meetings are attended by the greater part of our Members. Tho' painful deficiencies are apparent, particularly the neglect of mid-week meetings. The hour generally observed. Not all preserved from sleeping & other exceptions respecting other unbecoming behaviour. Some care appears to have been extended on these accounts. Love and Unity expressed to be measurably maintained amongst us. Detraction not sufficiently guarded against. Where differences have arisen, some care has been extended. A care appears to be maintained with many friends to unite those under their care in a consistent plan of piety while others are deficient herein.

The Holy Scriptures are frequently read in friends families. The circumstances of the poor generally attended to, none placed out from among friends but on account of.

Others instances of disorderly company & c. being, altho' warning are recommended to maintain a faithful testimony against it. Not wholly clear as to recording.

Charles to Certificates except a few instances which are under notice. A care rests with every to deal with <sup>in the spirit of meekness</sup> ~~offence~~ and place judgment where it appears necessary. No part without exceptions." We adjourn to the third hour this afternoon.

Met agreeable to adjournment Representatives present. An Epistle to the Genl. Meeting of Ministers & Friends in



New York hath been read and been approved during the yearly Meeting from the friends meeting at friends in London hath been read to our satisfaction and instruction. Adjourned to the ninth hour tomorrow morning. Fourth day the 13<sup>th</sup>. Met near the time adjourned to. The Representatives present. The friends appointed have produced an Epistle to the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends in Philadelphia, which being approved is signed. They report that ability was not felt by the Committee to address the Yearly Meeting held in London.

An endorsement for the Certificate of our beloved friend to the Company, whose company and religious services have been acceptable and edifying hath been approved and signed. Also a Certificate for our beloved friend Ann Alexander, whose company and joyful labors on the present occasion and within the compass of this Yearly Meeting have been strength giving and animating, and we desire may profitably improve our minds.

We are informed from the Men's Meeting that it is concluded the introduction Recommendation usually read, preceeding the Queries may be omitted in future unless circumstances render it necessary. And that Women Friends in their Meetings need not read or answer that part of the 9<sup>th</sup> Query respecting the payment of Priests Stages, bearings of arms, training in other military matters. And that the following be the whole of the 9<sup>th</sup> Query viz "Are you careful to maintain our testimony faithfully against slavery? With which we unite. And the Clerk is directed to forward an Extract of this Minute, with the transcripts of the Epistles received, to our Quarterly Meeting. We adjourn to the 9<sup>th</sup> hour this afternoon. Not by appointment. Representatives present.

Altho' our minds have been much exercised with a serious view of the situation of things amongst us, we trust a degree of favor hath been extended during several sittings of this Meeting, and we thank God for the same.



to conclude, intending if permitted to see you at this  
Place at the usual time next year.

Figure 1 on Detail of said Station. See (1)

Maxwell & Hatch Co. & Co. & Co.

Dear Friends

We are led to acknowledge that we have,  
at this season, been manifesting to feel that the spring of  
Divine Life is very low amongst us. And we believe, for  
our late and general movement, to be a  
movement of the Spirit, whereby little qualification hath been witnessed to move  
forward in the work of the day. Yet as the reading of  
your acceptable Epistle of the present year has had an  
animating effect upon some of our minds, we are encour-  
aged again to salute you, desiring to unite with those  
who are clothed at times with the blessing of a firm  
faith; from a sensibility that the "Ways of Zion" are  
because many come up to her external forms, with  
no other view than to enter into a proper concern for the  
spiritual welfare of the Body. Notwithstanding the  
Watchers on her Walls" continue to be exercised for  
help, in addition to the immediate extension of Divine  
Ministry for our enlargement in the knowledge of things  
excellent, that pertain to Salvation. May a consideration  
of the various displays thereof, with the witness of those  
who have spent for the promotion of the General Cause,  
will ever be as a fresh encouragement to pursue our  
work, to be also keeping pace with the day, seeing that it  
is that hour wherein the "last trumpet" shall be sounded;



have made of all the Lord's Benefits. An awful reflection indeed, for those who have slighted merciful visitations and embraced unsubstantial pleasures, or suffered themselves to dwell in the barren Land of supineness, from whence no acceptable offering can issue. We hope the number of those is lessening with you, by adopting a noble resolution to follow the leadings of that Divine Spirit which is able to put to flight all our carnal enemies and introduce to the passive mind the precious influences of Heavenly Love.

Ever warmly wishing the preservation of your health in the family with which you are connected, may not only be called of Israel, but evince that we are journeying forward out of Egyptian Bondage into the Land of Peace, we remain your affectionate friends.

Signed in and on behalf of said Meeting by  
 Mary Rotch Clerk this year

From our friendly Meeting of Boston, which is to leave Rhode-Island for New England, by adjournments from the 11<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month to the 13<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1824.

To the friends, Meeting of Boston, which is to leave New York.

Beloved Sisters

In a fresh feeling of that Love which unites the members of our Heavenly Father's family, and we are engaged to salute you, and inform that the reading of your acceptable Epistle was strengthening to many minds; believing that communications of this sort can only be rendered useful and edify the Body as we move under the



direction and influence of the Great Head of the Church, who alone qualifies for every good word & work. It is even visible that the present is an exercising season to many, on account of the too great lukewarmness, as well as departure from that simplicity and self-denial that characterizes the Disciples of Christ. But while we mourn for our slips, we are encouraged to believe that there are others who endeavour, as they are abilitated, to repair the Walls and rebuild the waste places of Zion, and who indeed prefer Jerusalem's prosperity to their chiefest joy. May the number of these increase, both with you and us. We feel a fervent solicitude to accompany our minds on behalf of the dear children of the Assembly, that those to whom the important trust of their congregation is committed, may be rightly qualified to discharge the same; by daily asking counsel, as at Wisdom's Gate. We are comforted in the prospect that there are some among the beloved youth, who appear to have yielded to the dictates of Truth in an early dedication of heart and submission to the power of the Cross. May all of this deep-living in every part of the Dispensation, experience their strength confirmed, and their Holy Resolutions confirmed, to press forward in the line of their appointment, altho' oft times find much waiting & exercise of Spirit. Yet he who is strength in weakness, and a present help in every needful time, will not fail to be their support. The attendance of our Religious Meetings being a very important Branch of our Christian Testimony, it greatly behoves us to pay a strict observance to this most necessary duty, in which the Soul is often replenished with grace. Let not the smallness of our numbers be any discouragement, remembering the gracious promise of our dear Lord, "where two or three are gathered in my Name; there am I, in the midst of them." We have been favoured at this time with the company of our beloved Sister Ann Alvarado from Europe and others others from neighboring friends. With the salutations of love we are your friends.

Signed in & on behalf of said Meeting by.

Anna T. T. & Co. this year.







feelings, & if Truth should open the way for conversion - produce them at a future sitting. This Meeting adjourns to the 4<sup>th</sup> hour tomorrow.

Third day the 18<sup>th</sup>. Met near the hour adjourn'd to: the

The friends appear to have been very attentive & the hour nearly observed. Generally preserved from sleeping and other unbecoming behaviour. Love and unity subsists in a good degree among us: yet it is guarded against the not without some instances of con-

direction in plainness, endeavoring to restrain from hurtful things, and to be good examples themselves, frequently read in most families.

A few instances of complaint in attending places of public resort, wherein care has been taken. The necessity of the poor are attended to. Most friends appear to be engaged in a dutiful care on the subject of marriage notwithstanding which, disorderly company, keeping is acknowledged from each meeting. Marriages duly recorded, not so careful in Births and Deaths.

Care is maintained to deal with offenders and to place judgement according to discipline.

The friends appointed have presented a report to the year's meeting of the same. The same is being read and approved. We adjourn to the 10<sup>th</sup> hour tomorrow evening.

Fourth day the 19<sup>th</sup>. Met near the hour adjourn'd to: the 10<sup>th</sup> hour. The friends appear to have been very attentive & the hour nearly observed. Generally preserved from sleeping and other unbecoming behaviour. Love and unity subsists in a good degree among us: yet it is guarded against the not without some instances of con-



approved and signed. A proposition will be made  
in from the Mens. Meetings, from Salem Quarter, for  
altering the time of holding their Quarterly Meetings  
that in future they be held as follows. in the 1<sup>st</sup> month  
at Newbury, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> month at Newark  
in the 3<sup>rd</sup> month at Newbury, in the 4<sup>th</sup> month at  
Newbury. As the Salem Quarterly Meeting proposes, that  
their Quarterly Meeting at Durham be held in future  
in the 1<sup>st</sup> month, preceding the 1<sup>st</sup> day in the 1<sup>st</sup>  
month, and at Windham on the 5<sup>th</sup> day preceding the  
first 6<sup>th</sup> day in the 2<sup>nd</sup> month, which this meeting  
cannot do.

We have had during the sittings of this  
year's Meeting renewedly to apprehend that there is a  
want of faithfulness amongst our Members in discharging  
the duties which are laid upon them. As we are called upon to be  
drawing their attention to an observance of the things that lead  
to peace, & restraining from those liberties which have a heated  
tendency, and recommending them to feel after the approbation  
of the internal Monitor, which would preserve from indulg-  
ing in anything that presents a doubt of propriety. A more  
general engagement of this kind in families, & in neigh-  
borhoods we apprehend would be very beneficial, pro-  
vided it is accompanied with that Love which seeks to  
rather all into an acquaintance with the Blessed Author  
of pure Love.

The subject of our yearning was  
indulging themselves in reading unprofitable publications, ha-  
ving no other reason to mourn over it, than that it is  
recall, and are suffering themselves to be captivated with that which  
will not procure them an evidence of peace in a dying hour.

It hath been very painful to observe that in each Meeting  
there appear to be instances of deviating in Marriage from  
the good order established amongst us. And we fear there is  
not that vigilance & care in Parents & Heads of families  
to endeavor to prevent it, that the nature of the case requires.



And now dear young friends, what shall we say to you, who are in danger of separating yourselves from us by this means? or how shall we convey the solicitude that we have felt for you? May we not appeal to your own hearts that we have early condemn'd you for yielding to any solicitation that would lead you to trespass against this rule of our Society? The only advice that conviction hath left us, and we tenderly desire there may be a willingness on your side to consider from whence this feeling proceeds; Surely from nothing short of that quickening power which can give you so rich an inward sense of nothingness, as to walk in that holy fear which would preserve from this & every other deviation.

A recommendation hath been tenderly spread before us, leading our attention to that adorning or appearance which is ~~desired~~ <sup>desired</sup> we desire may be treasured up to the instruction of many minds.

We have been affected in observing the languid manner in which the twelfth answer hath been brought up from divers meetings; and earnestly entreat that all on whom the concerns of Society may devolve, will so be labouring with appearance in the spirit of meekness and wisdom that they may be more satisfactory in substance.

The meeting adjourned to the 4th of June this afternoon. Not agreeable to adjournment near the time propos'd. Representatives all present. A general meeting of friends from the yearly Meeting of friends in London hath been <sup>read</sup> to our satisfaction. The object is to extract from the journals of those meetings some relation to the services and journeying done to the annual meeting, with some of the writings (Epistles received; &c.) respecting the alterations in the time of holding Salem Fair, &c. &c. &c.

Altho' this hath been a season of deep exercise of spirit to a living members of the Church, we humbly trust a portion of grace the overshadowing of Heavenly Love hath been witness'd, with a view that we may devoutly ponder the same in spirit thereof; we conclude to meet again at the usual time & place if permitted. Sign'd on behalf of the Meeting Abigail Arnold &c.



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Thomson's Lecture. Meeting of Women's Friends held on  
the 17th of the same inclusive 1845.

To the Yearly Meeting of Women's Friends held in  
London.

Dear Friends

Altho' we have to acknowledge the want  
of a qualification to address you at our last Annual Gather-  
ing, and that it is not from a very sensible increase  
of strength amongst us, that we are at this season thus engag-  
ed, we trust it will be safe to say, that we have had measure-  
ably to rejoice in the circulation of a degree of  
which has in its solicitude for the  
ers present and absent, and disposes us to salute you, in  
desire that we may ~~become~~ increasingly become your  
fellow-travellers in the work of our day. We are renew-  
edly convinced that a closer union with a  
general union in supporting the testimonies given us to  
bear, sealed by the blood of many self-denying followers of  
a crucified Lord, who obtained thereby an easier path  
for us; that we be not found resting as in the land of for-  
getfulness of the blessings we enjoy, and rendering our-  
selves more unworthy of that superior care & direction,  
without which all our labors are vain, whether we attempt  
the House, or to watch the City. A remnant  
being thus made sensible of our impotency and conse-  
quently of abundant cause for prayer and fervent  
applications to the Fountain of Strength, we desire grate-  
fully to receive the renewed offers of saving help, for  
the gathering of our minds from our  
and manifesting the superior efficacy of an indwelling  
with the Spirit of Truth, in order to experience a pro-  
gression thro' the vicissitudes of time to the attainment of a  
lasting evidence of being in the love of God.

In the renewed conviction that in Gilead there is  
you, and us, who have hitherto withstood the offers of redeem-  
ing love may be attracted, to come & see for themselves.



that a Physician is also therein able to heal our maladies, and  
that we are not to be discouraged by the thought of his power, to be a  
"stronghold" for us, and that we are not to be discouraged by the thought  
of his power, to be a "stronghold" for us, and that we are not to be discouraged  
not be exchanged, when jangled with a taste thereof, for the  
pleasures of this lower world. That we would if we  
could persuade these to arise and meet him whilst he is  
calling them, that he may draw us out of the  
world, so that we may be able to say "Altho' 'the Lord  
has been our refuge" we are now saved, for  
it is only thro' the love and power of the living God that  
we can "set up our Banners" and know a dwelling in  
our minds of others may then be drawn to enquire, who  
is your leader, & preserver, that ye are thus adorned with  
a meek and quiet spirit, thus supported thro' the com-  
pacts of his life and given for our comfort in that which  
is to come. Being ready, to exclaim "How goodie, are the  
Tents of Jacob, and thy Tabernacles of Israel?" Thus,  
may these be our words in gathering unto  
God, and come to shine as "Stars forever and ever".

The meeting at your assembly of the 17th  
at this time with considerable interest and encourage-  
ment to many minds. Our number appears as large  
as usual, and we have been enabled to transact the  
business before us in harmony and condescension.

We remain your affectionate friends. Signed in  
on behalf of said meeting by Abigail Arnold Clerk.

There are yearly Meetings of Women Friends held in  
Rhode Island by adjournments from the 17th of the  
month to the 19th of the same inclusive 1806.

To the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held in Rhode  
Island.

We may acknowledge the  
we feel ourselves at this season surrounded with many  
weaknesses, & impressed with a more full sensibility  
of our general state, yet a hope arises that thro



divine condescension we may be favored to experience  
 a renewal of strength by a fresh application of  
 mind to that source of our strength, yea, in which all  
 our great necessities must be met, which can alone enable us  
 acceptably to perform our religious duties before  
 him who seeth not as man seeth, yet hath been pleased  
 to regard our low estate in causing the revelation  
 and gift us mercifully to awake of the principles  
 of that life which leads into an ever increasing  
 rest for the gathering of every class in the family  
 within those holy bourns, prescribed by the Father  
 and finisher of our faith. If our acceptable thoughts  
 hath been read to our edification, and the sympathies  
 of our hearts hath been comfortable we trust  
 to many, who go mourning on their way, and are  
 at times even to be numbered, as taking a view of  
 the waste places amongst us, for want of a right con-  
 sideration of our several duties in this world, to be  
 to many "who may abide the day of his coming, and  
 when he appears who will shake the chaff from the  
 wheat. Yet we trust there is a number preserved,  
 whose dwelling is in the secret, and may thus with  
 you, and us, be enabled so to persevere, as that  
 stories of memorial may be brought up from time  
 to the honor of the Father, where, perhaps,  
 hath secretly sustained in all their conflict and strip-  
 ping seasons. That it seems in our hearts from a  
 side of the fresh arising of that love which we know  
 that the gospel imparts it spreads comfort to  
 the heavy hearted in generation, believing that  
 altho' these may have to suffer in some learning  
 season, and they will have to return rejoicing  
 bringing their sheaves with them. And it is not  
 for this class only that our minds have been exer-  
 cised, but also tenderly awakened to the im-  
 portance of education and exhortation in the family,  
 and have been led to desire that there might be re-  
 newedly animated to arise and embrace the disci-  
 pline of the cross of Christ that they may be enabled  
 to a "Garden of glory, that fadeth not away".



we most cordially salute these, desiring they may follow  
to know the Lord, and become re-instructed in the mystery  
of the heavenly kingdom; that there may be raised from  
among them "Judges as at the first, and Counsellors as at the  
beginning". The hurtful tendency of indulging a dispo-  
sition to private judgment, both at this time  
occasioned exercise amongst us; as we fear it hath been an  
avenue thro' which the enemy of our present & future hap-  
piness hath found an entrance, and has  
the beauty, and excellency of the truth from the view of ma-  
ny precious visited minds. We earnestly crave that  
the attention of those may be turned to such thro' a pro-  
per medium those things which are worthy of our pur-  
suit, and that accompany salvation.

We conclude your affectionate friends. Signed in  
our own behalf of voice meeting by Abigail Smith Oke

From our hearts. Meeting of Women Friends held  
on Shaw Island by arrangements from the 1<sup>st</sup> of the  
6<sup>th</sup> month to the 14<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1805.  
To the hearty Meeting of Women Friends held at  
New York.

Feeling our minds engaged by the  
presence of that Spirit which hath been diffused  
in our gathering, and which flows from the  
eternal Fountain; which is so universal in its divine  
nature, that it is not limited, or contracted within the circle  
of the gathering, but extends to all hearts with the same  
in all however distant in person, and breathes the same  
language in every quick'ned soul. Under its commanding  
influence we feelings which you may witness. Being made  
made sensible that notwithstanding the rebellion, and  
open rebellion of many, who are professing to be followers  
of Christ, that He is still pleased to own, and to grace those  
who in singleness of heart have espoused His holy cause; and



your will understand not only to yourself, but in the  
 wilderness, but even to you with heavenly desires, the  
 hungry work that in hunger, and yearning of heart,  
 are craving with submissive with a crumb from his  
 beautiful hand. Compressing with the holy com-  
 munion of his adorable mercy and goodness, we are led  
 to wave that many more of the laws are brought forth.  
 I mean may exhibit under his holy banner and partake  
 of the innumerable benefits of his salvation.  
 And more peculiarly are our minds drawn forth  
 in fervent solicitude of spirit, that the beloved truth  
 may so attend to the dawning of the light of truth in  
 their minds, that by its gradual arising, they may  
 learn to distinguish those things that are noxious and  
 hurtful, in the garden of their hearts, from the pleasant  
 plants of righteousness, which will produce good fruit  
 yielding a precious saviour. The language of the  
 experienced (who have tasted that the Lord is good,  
 and that all his paths are paths of peace) is, try  
for yourselves, and we ardently believe that you will  
 not only verify the fulfilment of many gracious  
 promises recorded in the scriptures of truth, even as  
 the Father declared concerning his Son, "I the Father  
 will keep it, I will watch it every moment; but my  
 Son, I will keep it night and day," but by en-  
 larging your hearts, and opening your understand-  
 ings, it will cause you to acknowledge  
 "Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord, God,  
 Almighty, just and true are all thy ways, thou  
 King of kings."

The reading of your acceptable Epis-  
 tole at the present time hath been truly edifying to  
 every mind, in this our Annual Assembly, which  
 hath been as large as usual, and is heartily and  
 unmeasurably owned by him who is the great Head of



of the Church! And under this his gathering  
influence may we so dwell as to use all diligence  
to make our calling and election sure.

Witness on behalf and by order  
of the Meeting, Abigail Arnold Clerk.















